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Lebanon

Israel on SAM Missiles--In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin admitted that the Lebanese crisis has brought about a dangerous situation in Syrian-Israeli relations but said that in his estimation there will not be a war between Syria and Israel. Israel wants to maintain a "historic period of peace," he said, while the Syrians have good reason to want to avoid a war with Israel. Begin also said Israel has no authoritative confirmation that Syria has deployed ground-to-air missiles in Al-Biqa', a statement that Jerusalem radio's political correspondent later described as an attempt to lower the tone in the drama. Noting that U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis met Begin on the night of 30 April and told him that the United States is making diplomatic moves to persuade the Syrians to withdraw their SAM-6 missiles from Al-Biqa', the commentator said Israeli Government circles have indicated that if the missiles are not removed Israel will take further military action.

Egyptian, Saudi Reaction--An Egyptian Foreign Ministry statement, carried textually by MENA, blamed Syria for the worsening situation in Lebanon by reinforcing sectarian divisions and encroaching on Lebanese sovereignty. It called for a reformulation of the 1976 Riyadh summit resolutions and for assistance to the legitimate government to stop the Syrian-imposed bloodshed. However, the statement also strongly condemned Israel's escalation of the situation by military intervention. Rejecting as spurious Israel's claim that it is protecting Lebanese Christians, the statement said Israel's "flagrant aggression" against Lebanon creates new obstacles to the Middle East peace process. Saudi Deputy National Guard Commander Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Suwaydiri arrived in Syria, Damascus radio reported, conveying a message on the latest Israeli actions in Lebanon to President Hafiz al-Asad from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Situation in South--Beirut radio reported that Israeli and Christian militia shelled villages in the south on 30 April. Clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said Palestinian forces bombarded Israeli settlements with heavy rocket and artillery fire in retaliation for previous Israeli air attacks on southern Lebanon. Jerusalem radio confirmed that the Palestinians fired several Katyusha rockets into Western Galilee. According to Beirut radio, a 250-man Lebanese Army unit arrived in Arzun on 30 April, implementing the first phase of the program to dispatch the army to the south. Noting that Israel has no objection "in principle" to the entry of Lebanese units in the south, Jerusalem radio said Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad is waiting to see whether they will deploy close to the areas under his forces' control.

VOP Hebrew Broadcasts

On 29 April the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio started transmitting a regular Hebrew service to Israel. According to an introductory program on 27 April the PLO Executive Committee decided to establish the Hebrew service last December. It will be broadcast daily except Saturdays. The first two programs began with news items on Lebanon and Israel and then featured a political talk. The 29 April talk focused on the Israeli claim to be protecting Lebanese Christians, marshaling arguments and evidence to try to prove that Lebanese christians reject Israeli intervention in Lebanon.

Schmidt Tour

Addressing journalists at the conclusion of his talks in Abu Dhabi, FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stressed that security in the Gulf region is primarily the responsibility of the states of the area, DPA reported. Schmidt also expressed support for the recently formed Gulf Cooperation Council and praised the UAE's moderate policy on oil prices. According to DPA, Schmidt's discussions with UAE leaders focused on economic, educational and scientific cooperation. The GULF NEWS AGENCY reported that Schmidt left Abu Dhabi on 30 April.

Libya

Saudi Oil Policy Criticized--Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud has accused Saudi Arabia of deliberately flooding the international market with oil in order to create a surplus and force down prices. In a statement to JANA, Jallud also said the Saudis have predetermined the resolutions to be passed at the upcoming OPEC conference in Geneva and that the other OPEC states are expected merely to endorse those resolutions. Jallud stressed that Libya rejects any reduction in oil prices and demands a reduction in the market surplus of oil through reduced production.

Cooperation With USSR--TASS has revealed that the economic and technical cooperation protocol signed during Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to the USSR dealt primarily with power generation and included an expression of Soviet willingness to participate in the operation of Libya's nuclear research center, which was built with Soviet assistance. It added that the construction of a nuclear powerplant as well as thermal powerplants is being studied. The two countries are also to cooperate in oil and gas exploration and development, and the Soviet Union will supply Libya with two drilling rigs.

Iran

Tehran radio reported that a spokesman for the three-man committee investigating differences among Iran's leaders has accused President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of violating the Constitution by failing to approve legislation passed by the Majlis. The legislation in question would give Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i the authority to appoint supervisors for those government ministries that do not yet have ministers. Bani-Sadr had earlier told the committee that his failure to act on the bill, which he disapproves of, was his prerogative as president. The spokesman said the committee replied that legislation approved by the Majlis and supported by the Council of Guardians is "lawful and decisive" and must be considered to be law. The committee also criticized as inadequate Bani-Sadr's reply to its question about two interviews he is alleged to have given to foreign magazines, the spokesman said. According to another Tehran radio report, Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani has told the Majlis that Bani-Sadr is responsible for the delay in holding byelections to select Majlis deputies for those constituencies that have not yet done so. Responding to a request by Majlis Speaker Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani that he explain why the byelections have not been held, Mahdavi-Kani said Bani-Sadr told him that because of the war with Iraq it is not advisable to hold elections yet, even in those areas that are not affected by the war.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

According to Tehran radio, Iranian Ground Forces killed 74 Iraqis in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region while the Air Force attacked Iraqi positions along the western fronts. The radio also said exchanges of fire continued on the southern front, and it accused Iraq of artillery and missile attacks on residential areas of Dezful and Ahvaz. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, confirmed the continued fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, claiming its troops killed 68 Iranians and destroyed 4 infantry positions there.

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KLIBI SPEAKS AT MEETING OF ARAB CHIEFS OF STAFF

LD301406 Tunis TAP in French 1345 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Tunis, 29 Apr (TAP)--At the opening of the conference of chiefs of staff of the Arab states' armed forces in Tunis on Tuesday Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, stated: "Some people will perhaps think that we are belligerents; nothing is less true. We demand our rights. All we want to do is to recover them, without the slightest recourse to violence. However," he added, "the day all other means have been exhausted, when our peaceful efforts have failed, when we still find ourselves the object of Israel's rejection and its obstinacy, then we will have to be ready to face all possibilities."

The secretary general of the pan-Arab organization said in this respect the greatest part of the efforts of the league will remain devoted to the Palestinian problem.

Mr Klibi also spoke of the support the Arab countries must give to Lebanon, the victim of Israeli attacks. He said: "We must contribute materially and morally to help the Lebanese people, who are so dear to us." The secretary general of the organization of Arab states said in conclusion that "Shi'mon Peres' government, if his party wins the election, will be more intransigent than Begin's, especially since he reproaches the latter for giving up the Sinai oilfields and accepts the expression 'internal autonomy' with regard to the occupied territories."

KLIBI'S DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES ON LEBANON REPORTED

LD301350 Tunis Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, today asked the French, British and U.S. Governments to use their influence to end the dangerous escalation of Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Klibi made this request today when he met the ambassadors of France and Britain and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Tunis. Chadli Klibi warned against the danger of expanding the war inherent in the daily Israeli aggression and their violent nature.

It is worth mentioning that this week Klibi has embarked on extensive diplomatic activity following the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon. He had telephone conversations with a number of Arab officials, in particular the president of Lebanon, and yesterday he met Abu al-Walid, member of the PLO Central Committee, and received a message from Yasir 'Arafat. He also asked his representative at the United Nations to hand a message on the situation in Lebanon to Kurt Waldheim.

PLO ENVOY TO SPEAK ON SOVIET RADIO ABOUT LEBANON

JN301910 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpts] As part of the intensive political moves undertaken by the PLO to acquaint local and world public opinion with the latest developments of the situation in light of the Zionist military escalation against the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces using U.S.-made weapons of destruction and the subsequent grave consequences which place the Middle East region on the verge of a new explosion, the offices of the Palestinian diplomatic missions abroad are briefing the concerned quarters on the latest grave developments in Lebanon.

The PLO mission in Moscow has doubled its information activity and is acquainting the press circles and the embassies accredited in Moscow on the results of the Zionist aggression. It has been decided that Brother Muhammad ash-Sha'ir, PLO representative in Moscow, will broadcast over Soviet radio three to four times a week on the events taking place in Lebanon.

PALESTINIANS DENY FIRING ON CALLAGHAN HELICOPTER

NC010744 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0539 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] An official information source of the Palestinian revolution has made the following statement: The Zionist information media and their allied isolationist information media have disseminated reports stating that the joint forces have fired on the aircraft of General Callaghan, the UNIFIL commander in southern Lebanon.

We want to emphasize that these reports are absolutely unfounded and that they constitute a naive attempt to cover up the din which Israel is raising over Lebanese territory for the purpose of carrying out shelling and destructive operations and of exterminating Palestinian and Lebanese civilians, let alone the acts to which the UNIFIL forces are daily subjected by Israel and its agent, Sa'd Haddad.

GULF COUNCIL CONCERNED OVER OMANI TIES WITH U.S.

LD301359 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Apr p 1

[By Sa'id al-Mani']

[Text] Abu Dhabi--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned that the finance ministers of the Gulf Arab States' Cooperation Council will hold a meeting in Kuwait in the next few days. These sources stated that the Gulf Council finance ministers will discuss the laying of the foundations for financial and investment cooperation in the Gulf area within a unified plan involving all these states. The sources added that the plan will be finalized preparatory to submission to the Gulf summit conference scheduled to convene in Abu Dhabi on 25 May. These sources hinted that reservations are being expressed regarding the Sultanate of Oman. Oman might not attend the conference because of these reservations which are being expressed by the council members with regard to the Sultanate of Oman's ties with and the military facilities granted to the United States--a matter which conflicts with the council's policy and upsets its aims.

These sources pointed out that constant consultations are being held to deal with this matter before the Gulf summit is convened. These sources pointed out that constant consultations are being held to deal with this matter before the Gulf summit is convened. These sources also pointed out that the problem of the Omani situation is worrying the other council members profoundly because of the repercussions this problem could have on the council as a whole since it is keen to maintain its nonalignment and has emphasized its ability to protect the area's security without the help of any foreign force. The current view is that if the sultanate insists on maintaining its special ties with the United States, a strategic alternative to transporting Gulf oil through the Strait of Hormuz could be the large oil pipeline which is being implemented in Saudi Arabia and which will extend to the Red Sea. This pipeline could become a strategic Gulf line transporting large quantities of Gulf states' oil to the Red Sea.

On another level these sources said that discussions are taking place on the formation of a federal cabinet comprising foreign, finance, oil, defense, education and economy ministries, in addition to the unification of embassies and the issuance of standard Gulf passport and currency, and on convening a summit conference once every year instead of twice except in emergency situations.

BRIEFS

IRAQ-KUWAIT RAILWAY LINK--Kuwait, 30 Apr (KUNA)--An agreement was reached here Thursday between Kuwait and Iraq on the establishment of a railway link between the two states, it was reported. The new link will be the first phase in a giant and modern railway network which will extend all over the Gulf region, the report added. Sources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today the Iraqi delegation who arrived here earlier this week handed their Kuwaiti counterparts the original feasibility study on the project. The two parties agreed that each will take responsibility for construction, financing and administration of the sector lying on its territory. [Excerpt] [Kuwait KUNA English 1504 GMT 30 Apr 81 LD]

LIBYAN STATEMENT TERMS SAUDI POLICY 'PROVOCATION'

LD301742 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Apr (JANA)--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud has said that Saudi Arabia, on the order of the United States, has predetermined the resolutions of the OPEC conference due to be held in Geneva on 25 May.

In a statement to JANA he said that the Saudi position requires OPEC members states to attend the conference simply to sign the resolutions. This indicates that OPEC has become a Saudi OPEC.

In his statement he described this attitude as a provocation and as an insult to the member states. He added that serious thought must be given to the creation of an organization which expresses the will of the peoples of the oil-producing countries.

He added that Saudi Arabia now expresses the interests of the International Energy Agency, which is led by the United States, and that Saudi Arabia's proper place is within this agency.

Staff Major Jallud added that Saudi Arabia is waging war against the countries producing raw materials and that the Saudi policy of high oil production is not placed on scientific bases; it is a policy of deliberate attrition and destruction of the resources of the Arab people in the Arabian Peninsula--which was made clear in a recent statement by the Saudi oil minister.

Saudi Arabia deliberately floods the international market in order to create a surplus [words indistinct]. The average daily production is supposed to be 85 million barrels but Saudi Arabia has raised this to 103 million barrels per day in order to force the oil producing countries to reduce their prices and to abandon their economic and social plans.

Staff Major Jallud said that the Saudi oil minister has predetermined a 15 percent reduction in oil prices at the forthcoming conference. This makes the Arab citizen in the Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere ask: In whose interest is this?

Staff Major Jallud defined the attitude of the Jamahiriyah toward this position: The Jamahiriyah rejects any attempt to reduce prices; it demands a reduction in the market surplus by decreasing production by a ratio of [words indistinct] for every producing country.

He added that the coming conference must maintain the purchasing power of the producing countries by initiating price increases to meet inflation and rising prices.

IRANIAN OIL OFFICIAL VISITS ALGERIA FOR TALKS

LD302302 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Hasan Sadat, acting Iranian oil minister [title as heard], arrived in Algiers today on 2-day visit to our country. The Iranian official, who is accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed at Houari Boumediene Airport by Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries, and by the Iranian charge d'affaires in Algeria. The Iranian-Algerian talks began this afternoon between Belkacem Nabi and the Iranian minister. The talks covered bilateral exchanges and the international energy issue in the light of recent developments. This comes in the context of consultations over the forthcoming meeting of OPEC oil ministers due to be held in Geneva on 25 May 1981.

KUWAIT

KNOWLEDGE OF SAUDI MOVES OVER LEBANON DENIED

LD010828 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Kuwait, 1 May (KUNA)--Kuwait Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn today said that Kuwait knows of no Saudi moves directed against the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon made up of Syrian troops. In a statement to the newspaper AL-QABAS he said that Kuwait "knows nothing about this matter." He denied that Kuwait has received a message in this connection from Saudi officials.

Matters pertaining to the Arab Deterrent Forces and their presence in Lebanon and the financial support given to them are matters that should be discussed by the Arab League which is responsible for renewing their mandate every 6 months. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf countries finance the Arab Deterrent Forces which were sent by Syria into Lebanon in the summer of 1976 to put an end to the fierce civil war which shattered Lebanon.

The Kuwaiti minister added that "Kuwait has no specific position at present on this matter and the presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon is based on a resolution adopted by the Arab League and must always be reviewed within the framework of the league."

"Kuwait will always support any measure which could help to contain and resolve the Lebanese question and restore normality to Lebanon while safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial and demographic integrity."

OMAN

OIL MINISTER SAYS PRODUCTION RATE TO BE MAINTAINED

JN272047 Doha QNA in Arabic 2025 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Text] Muscat, 27 Apr (QNA)--Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Ahmad ash-Shanfari has stated that his country will maintain its average daily oil production at 300,000 barrels for the next 5 years. He added that the Petroleum and Minerals Ministry's plan for the next 5 years provides for the implementation of a number of projects, the most important of which is the oil refinery to obtain oil products that are locally refined and whose production capacity will amount to 50,000 barrels per day.

In a statement to the Omani magazine AN-NAHDAH, the minister of petroleum and minerals said that the 30 million rial refinery project will secure hard currency which is usually paid by the sultanate to import refined oil products. The project, he added, will also establish a nucleus for setting up various industries. Ash-Shanfari said that the new plan also provides for completing the copper project within the first 5-year plan at the cost of 55 million rials. The new plan provides for the construction of a gas pipeline at the cost of 15 million rials.

SAUDI ARABIA

U.S. AID TO ISRAEL HELPS USSR 'GAIN GROUND'

LD301309 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Apr 81 p 17

[Text] Washington, KUNA--Saudi Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has linked the growth of Soviet influence in the Middle East to continued American aid to Israel.

He stated that the more the United States increases its aid to Israel, the more the Russians gain ground in our area.

In a speech he delivered at Harvard University in the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, the day before yesterday, Shaykh Yamani strongly criticized Israeli policy. He called on the United States to take advantage of the moderate policy of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, emphasizing that the Arabs are gaining economic and military strength which will enable them to secure a better solution to the Middle East crisis as time goes by. Shaykh Yamani said: I believe that our forces are growing and time is not on Israel's side. Despite this, we are prepared to live with a peaceful settlement if we can achieve it soon.

The Saudi minister then broached the oil issue. He renewed his call on OPEC to try to unify oil prices. He urged that oil prices be reduced as a basic condition for achieving the unified prices structure which the kingdom has been advocating for a long time. He said that the price stability is an important factor for the development of the world economy. He predicted that the Soviet Union, which is the world's biggest oil producer, could become an oil importer in mid-eighties. He said: We view this possibility with genuine anxiety because the only way open to the Soviets to obtain oil is to seize an oilfield.

INFORMATION MINISTER LAUDS SCHMIDT'S VISIT

GF301938 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad 'Abdul Yamani has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of FRG Chancellor Schmidt's visit to the kingdom at the invitation of Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince and deputy prime minister. The minister said the FRG side showed a deep understanding of the Saudi viewpoint on various issues that were tackled, particularly the Palestinian issue. King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz raised these issues and explained their dimensions during the talks.

The information minister said: Chancellor Schmidt reiterated his country's belief that solving the Palestinian issue is basic to establishing peace in the Middle East. He said Schmidt announced that the PLO will participate in the next meeting between representatives of the European Community and Arab countries. This is within the framework of the Arab-European dialogue which is a turning point that has occurred in the interest of the Palestinian issue. The PLO's participation in the Arab-European talks is the proper beginning toward solving the complicated regional conflict.

The information minister ended his statement by lauding Arab-FRG friendship and Saudi-FRG cooperation in various fields. This has been reflected in the exchange of visits by senior officials from both countries. He noted that Crown Prince Fahd's acceptance of Schmidt's invitation to visit the FRG in the near future is an indication of the close bilateral relations that benefit the Saudi and German people.

UAE

FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT VISITS FOR OFFICIAL TALKS

GF291500 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi--The first session of talks between the UAE president, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was held this afternoon. Bilateral relations and joint cooperation were discussed during the meeting.

The UAE delegation to the meeting included Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces; Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan; Suru. ibn Muhammad, head of the president's office; Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative; Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Rashid al-Mukhawi, UAE ambassador in Bonn. The FRG side included the members of the accompanying delegation and Dr Eberhard Kuhnt, FRG ambassador to the UAE.

The wider official session of bilateral talks will be held tomorrow morning at Al-Mushrif Palace. The UAE side will be headed by his highness the president. The FRG chancellor will head his country's side.

AFP Report

NC301126 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 30 Apr (AFP)--Leaders of the United Arab Emirates told West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt here today that they do not want foreign military powers in the Gulf, West German officials said. The Emirates also expressed interest in West German non-offense military materiel like patrol boats and engineering products, and Mr. Schmidt agreed to help in scientific projects and schools construction, the officials added.

Mr. Schmidt, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia yesterday, told a press conference that European Economic Community (EEC) [as received] peace initiatives in the Middle East "went in a distinctly different direction than Camp David." The initiatives would take on a new dimension, if the objectives of Camp David could not be achieved,he added.

Oil Company Concessions

JN301306 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1155 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 30 Apr (GNA)--His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Abu Dhabi's heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, met here this afternoon with FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and his delegation.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY says that the talks focused primarily on the possibilities for bolstering bilateral economic relations, particularly with regard to oil. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid decided during the meeting to grant German companies rights to drill for oil in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. This is the first time that German companies have been granted oil concessions in the Arab Gulf states.

More Talks; Press Conference

GF301036 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpts] An official session of UAE-FRG talks began in Al-Mushrif Palace at 1030 today. The UAE side was led by His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and the FRG side was led by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has learned that the official talks that took place this morning between the UAE and the FRG dealt with the Middle East situation. The two sides expressed their views on this matter. There was understanding on the need to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Gulf. The FRG supported the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council in view of its importance for the council's member countries in particular, and the situation in the Gulf in general. The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has also learned that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and joint cooperation. The two sides expressed their common desire to strengthen and develop joint cooperation to serve the interests of the two countries and peoples, particularly in economic, cultural and scientific fields.

President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has accepted the invitation from FRG President Karl Carstens, conveyed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, to visit the FRG. The FRG chancellor also extended a similar invitation to Vice President and Prime Minister Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktun to visit the FRG.

FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt expressed his thanks to UAE officials led by President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan for the warm welcome accorded to him. He said that UAE-FRG relations are developing steadily, particularly following the short visit of FRG President Karl Carstens to the UAE earlier this year. He also expressed the FRG Government's deep appreciation for the UAE's wise and moderate energy policy in OPEC.

Speaking at a press conference in Al-Mushrif Palace today, FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt lauded the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He declared: The FRG pins great hopes on the council and considers it an important event because it came as a result of the changes that took place in the region in the past few years with the aim of strengthening the countries of the region.

Chancellor Schmidt said that during his current visit to the UAE and his recent visit to Saudi Arabia he sensed a profound feeling of the need to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the Middle East question and the need to keep the Gulf free of international conflict. He said that Europe's contribution to the solution of the Middle East question cannot go further than issuing statements after exploring views through the visits of European officials to countries of the region. FRG Chancellor Schmidt said that the Venice declaration issued by the EEC last year is an improvement over all declarations and agreements adopted with regard to a Middle East solution, including the Camp David accords.

[Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 30 April adds: "Chancellor Helmut Schmidt left the UAE for home this afternoon after a 2-day visit to the state."]

AL-ITTIHAD QUESTIONS LIFTING OF U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO

LD300953 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Apr 81 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] It is our right, indeed our duty, to pause for reflection on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to lift the ban on grain exports to the Soviet Union. It is true that Reagan promised to do so in his election campaign and that he has tried to justify the decision by saying that the effect of the ban on the Soviets was "marginal," but what is also true is the fact that Reagan's decision--however Washington may try to justify it--is regarded as a kind of retreat in the Republican administration's campaign against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan--an intervention which the administration regarded as serious and because of which it issued threats and warned of grave consequences. Such threats, however, are in no way consistent with this retreat which some of Reagan's Cabinet members and senior officials opposed.

There is no justification for this decision except self-interest and self-interest alone, whether this is the interest of Reagan as president, or the interest of the American wheat farmers as voters and as a powerful pressure group, or the interest of the United States as a superpower that finds in the Soviet market a substantial outlet for disposing of its products following some of its allies' quick seizure of this market.

Reagan's decision to lift the ban against the Soviets and his other decisions, as well as his talk about a "clash" with the Soviets are no more than an expression of U.S. interests: They are not principles, nor lofty objectives, nor noble values. International politics know only interests and the language of interests. Therefore, the U.S. uproar about Gulf security and the fear expressed for it should the Russian bear advance, seems strange and odd.

The British Prime Minister expressed such a fear when she said that the greatest danger to the Gulf is posed by the Soviets--a fear which is also reflected in the intention to set up the Rapid Deployment Force command in the area.

Such stances, whether by the United States or its allies, seem inconsistent and incompatible, which makes in incumbent upon us to look out for our own interests in the midst of this whirlpool. There is no doubt that securing our interests can be done only by relying on ourselves and by openness toward all the international powers, both to receive from them and give to them as well as to cooperate with them in order to secure our interests. This was probably expressed by the Kuwait deputy prime minister's visit to Moscow, the visit that proves that the area is open to all world trends and is ready to deal with all powers in order to ensure its prosperity, security, and peace.

PDRY

OFFICIAL'S DISMISSAL SAID TO TIGHTEN USSR 'GRIP'

LD301123 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 30 Apr 81 p 4

[Report by "our diplomatic staff": "Soviet Grip on South Yemen Tightened"]

[Text] A bitter power struggle in South Yemen has resulted in victory for the hard-line Marxists running the country, and has reinforced Russian control of the one Soviet satellite in the Arab world.

According to reports in Beirut, Brig. 'Ali 'Antar, the minister of defense, has been dismissed, and his membership of the Politburo of the Yemen Socialist Party has been "suspended." The effect is to turn this veteran nationalist and revolutionary into a "non-person" and friends in the West were fearful last night of his ultimate fate.

Brig. Antar, a Moscow-trained officer and dedicated communist, offended the Soviet Union and his South Yemeni colleagues by insisting on running the Defence Ministry himself, and refusing to take orders from Russian "advisers."

OMAN RESETTLEMENT POLICY LINKED TO U.S. 'METHODS'

LD302134 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] Honorable listeners, dear countrymen: The agent Qabus regime in Muscat and its new masters--the American imperialists--are today striving to apply the American methods, which were used before [words indistinct] by American forces during the Vietnam war in order to end the Vietnamese revolution in our country and against the masses of our people in the mountainous areas of the southern region of Oman. They hope to exterminate the effective existence of the revolution, in our country and against the masses of our people in the mountainous areas of the southern region of Oman. They hope to exterminate the effective existence of the revolution of our people in these areas which have witnessed, and are still witnessing, fierce battles between the strugglers of the PFLO and the enemy forces represented by the troops of the agent regime in Muscat, and the British, Egyptian, American and other forces imported as mercenaries into our homeland during the past years.

Therefore, in recent [word indistinct] they drew up a new plan by which they aim to fulfill the wish of the agent regime of Qabus on one hand, and (?consolidate) their positions on the soil of our homeland by building bases, arms depots and suchlike, on the other hand. Hence, we see them fabricating justifications in order to evacuate the inhabitants of the (?mountainous) areas and force them to permanently settle in coastal towns. To (?achieve) this they lure citizens by buying up their property in these areas for enormous sums of money, so that they will no longer have any evidence (?of ownership) or interest in [words indistinct] the mountainous areas. This plan was used at the beginning of this century in Palestine by the imperialist states and Zionism.

The other plan centered on the construction by the agent regime in Muscat of many villages in the mountainous areas, and forcing the citizens to move into them permanently with their animals so that they would be under the surveillance of the various organs of the authority, namely the army, police and the intelligence service. This was after providing such basic essentials as water, [word indistinct] commodity warehouses, [words indistinct] a school (?for children), and other things which would entice the citizens in the mountainous areas who lack the basic essentials of life.

Through these groups of people they aim at many things, including:

1. (?Extending) surveillance over the inhabitants [words indistinct] in these villages of groups to enable the repressive organs of the regime, namely the police and intelligence service, to monitor the people and their movements;
2. The authorities can, after completing the operation of [words indistinct] the citizens in the mountainous areas, (?investigate) every single detail in these villages. [Words indistinct];
3. Depriving the citizens in these villages, or residential groupings, of the freedom of movement from one place to another, particularly [word indistinct] in specific places;
4. The authorities and their imperialist masters hope to create iron walls in these villages and groupings between the revolutionaries and the citizens in order to take the fish from the water and hence implement the theory of (?depriving) the lake of water so that the fish may die, albeit slowly. By fish we men the revolutionaries, and by water we mean the masses of the Omani people.

This reactionary colonialist design, which the reactionaries and their masters are striving to fulfill in our country, will be met by the masses of our Omani people with quick failure, as were the previous colonialist and reactionary schemes and plans.

Our people have no less understanding or heroism than the Vietnamese people who rubbed the snouts of imperialism and its agents in the mud, and who foiled all the plans and plots drawn up against them during the years of struggle.

At a time when we expose the plans of the agent regime of Qabus and its masters, we call on the masses of our people all over Oman to be vigilant, to disregard the orders of the enemies and to steer clear of the spurious, two-faced lures and conspiratorial (?secrets) which ultimately aim at shackling our people with iron chains which will need great and exhaustive efforts to unshackle.

The traitors, agents and enemies of the people have never done anything in the interest of the masses. They aim, by any means, at achieving and protecting their interests and nothing else.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER SEES SYRIAN, SOVIET, U.S. ENVOYS

JN301332 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] YAR Foreign Minister 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr today received Syrian Ambassador to the YAR Hassan Hassun, who conveyed a copy of a Syrian statement on the grave Israeli escalation of aggression against Lebanon and the positions of the Arab Deterrent Forces. The YAR foreign minister also received separately the Soviet charge d'affaires in San'a' and George Lane, U.S. ambassador in San'a', to discuss bilateral relations.

COMMENTARY SEES HAIG INFLUENCE ON REAGAN DECLINING

NC301714 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Apr 81

[News analysis by radio Political Affairs Editor Layla ?aydan]

[Text] The decline in Secretary of State Alexander Haig's influence within the administration of U.S. President Reagan is clearly evident in the two decisions Reagan has recently made on the U.S. embargo on wheat sales to the Soviet Union and the sale of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Haig opposed both decisions and considered, in his capacity as secretary of state that they would harm U.S. foreign policy.

Haig's argument against lifting the embargo on grain exports to the Soviet Union was that such a decision would harm U.S. efforts to rally the noncommunist states of the world against Soviet expansionism. Furthermore, this embargo was imposed as punishment for the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan, and as long as it had not withdrawn its forces, there was no justification for lifting it. At the same time, Haig thought that in doing so the United States would embarrass its allies, who were forced to follow the U.S. example and impose economic sanctions against the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union felt the pinch of the embargo, and the U.S. State Department confirmed that the embargo led to a sharp decrease in Soviet meat production. However, President Reagan has decided to lift the embargo for other reasons which he considers to be important. One of the most important of these reasons is fulfilling his promise to U.S. farmers during his election campaign to lift the embargo, from which they too have suffered. Thus, domestic policy triumphed over the views of the State Department and Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

MENA REPORTS ON ABU GHAZALAH'S WASHINGTON VISIT

Washington POST Interview

NC010910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Washington, 1 May (MENA)--Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has stated that Egypt and the United States have made progress regarding the granting of facilities for the use of Ra's Banas base by the Rapid Deployment Force or by other U.S. forces.

In an interview with the Washington POST, Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah says that he expects the agreement on granting facilities in Ra's Banas to be signed before President as-Sadat's next visit to Washington this summer. The agreement, as Abu Ghazalah puts it, will be in accordance with the letters exchanged between Egypt and the United States.

In his interview with the Washington POST diplomatic correspondent, Don Oberdorfer, the Egyptian defense minister refers to the importance of this base on the western coast of the Red Sea, opposite Saudi Arabia, and to its importance as a base for the purpose of defending the Gulf area.

The Washington POST says that Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah has explained that Egypt opposes the United States use of bases in Sinai for purposes connected with the Gulf area. The paper also refers to the cost that the United States will allocate for developing Ra's Banas base in order make it suitable for use by U.S. military. Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah says that Egypt expects the United States to cover the necessary expenses to extend the length of the runways in the base and deepen the port. He adds that these projects are necessary for U.S. activities, but Egypt has no need for them.

The Washington POST says that the first thing that Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah did during his visit was to stress Egypt's need for additional U.S. weapons in order to confront the possible threat--which Cairo expects--as a result of the continuous flow of arms into Libya, South Yemen and other nearby areas.

It is worth mentioning that a joint statement was issued yesterday announcing an Egyptian-U.S. agreement to speed up the dispatch of arms to Egypt, including F-16 planes and M-60 tanks, and to discuss a 5-year program for the development of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Quoting U.S. sources, the Washington POST says that at present, the dispatch of tanks to Egypt will be accelerated.

The paper quotes Abu Ghazalah as saying that the list of projects he brought with him from Egypt includes the purchase of Hawkey early-warning planes, fighter planes and hundreds of tanks.

Abu Ghazalah adds that he does not believe that the allocation of $900 million in U.S. aid for this year is sufficient. He expresses his hope that the United States will be more flexible toward a long-term military relationship which will cover the rearming of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah refers to Libya's two-to-one superiority over Egypt in the field of sophisticated weapons, saying this constitutes a real threat. He adds that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who visited Moscow this week, has the financial capabilities and equipment and open channels to a superpower. Al-Qadhdhafi also crazily dreams of building an empire under his leadership and, if Al-Qadhdhafi feels that Egypt is weaker than he. then who would stop his threats or even prevent him from attacking Egypt?

In his interview with the Washington POST, Abu Ghazalah expresses a special concern over the accumulation of sophisticated weapons in Libya and the number of planes and trained pilots there. He says that Libya has 425 MiG planes, 25 French Mirage planes and other modern planes. It has also about 99 foreign pilots, including 50 Russians, 50 Cubans, 40 Syrians and an unknown number East Germans and North Koreans. Abu Ghazalah adds that there are about 5,000 Cubans in Libya in addition to combat Cuban forces in Angola and Ethiopia, who could, if need be, go to Libya at short notice.

Agreement on Arms Delivery

NC302102 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 30 Apr (MENA)--The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the U.S. military equipment deliveries to Egypt will begin in July and that the deliveries will include tanks and antiarmor weapons such as TOW missiles.

During the successful talks held this week in Washington by Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, it was agreed to speed up the deliveries.

The MENA correspondent has learned from highly placed military sources that the schedule for the armament of Egypt also includes air-defense weapons, various types of aircraft, including for example electronic early warning planes of the Hawkeye type--which are similar to and serve the same purpose as the AWACS--plus F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft. This is in addition to the deals concluded in the past for the purchase of F-16 aircraft.

A senior military source has told MENA that a long-term U.S. araments program for Egypt has been agreed upon and that a commission of U.S. experts will visit Cairo within the next 2 weeks to discuss the details of Egypt's requirements. These requirements will be delivered in accordance with the existing agreements between the two countries which were discussed during the Egyptian defense minister's visit to the United States.

MENA has also learned that Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah will leave the U.S. capital for Cairo tomorrow. He will be carrying written commitments confirming that the schedule will be implemented on the basis of what was agreed upon during the negotiations, which have resulted in agreement of U.S. and Egyptian views, especially after Lieutenant General Abu Ghazalah presented Egypt's analysis and assessment of the military situation.

GHALI COMMENTS IN LONDON ON CURRENT ISSUES CITED

Comments at Institute

NC300014 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] London, 29 Apr (MENA)--Minister of State Butrus Ghali has affirmed Egypt's interest in and support for the European initiative. He explained that he has been instructed by President Anwar as-Sadat to convey to the British Government Egypt's welcome of the initiative and Britain's role in it. This came in an answer Dr Ghali gave to questions by people attending the meeting held today at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in Britain. The meeting was chaired by Britain's former ambassador in Cairo, Harold Bealey, and was attended by a large number of Foreign Office officials and experts in Middle East affairs.

Replying to another question, Dr Ghali denied that Egypt's attitude toward the Palestine Liberation Organization is hostile. In this context he referred to the invitation Egypt extended to the PLO in 1977 to attend the Mena House meetings.

The minister of state for foreign affairs reaffirmed Egypt's support for the supply of U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Replying to a question on Egypt's attitude toward Soviet President Brezhnev's proposals, Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt did not monopolize the course for reaching a solution. He said that President as-Sadat had announced his support of any effective initiative that is accepted by the parties concerned. Moreover, the Egyptian minister of state affirmed Egypt's respect for the nonaligned principles as a basis of Egyptian policy.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr Ghali delivered a lecture which dealt with the Egyptian-Israeli Palestinian autonomy talks, the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and Egyptian relations with the Arab states.

Press Conference

NC291701 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] During the press conference he held this afternoon at the Egyptian Embassy in London, minister of state for foreign affairs Dr Butrus Ghali described his talks in London as constructive and fruitful. He said Egypt welcomes any EC initiative that will contribute to the establishment of a just, lasting peace in the Middle East as long as it does not conflict with the spirit of Camp David. Dr Ghali said that President Anwar as-Sadat's speech to the European Parliament reflected Egypt's interest in European participation and contribution to the desired peace and justice for all parties.

Asked about Egypt's position on the question of UN emergency forces in the Sinai, Dr Ghali said that Egypt would welcome a UN contribution and the presence of UN forces to supervise the final withdrawal from the Sinai, or a multinational force to serve the same purpose.

On Egypt's attitude toward the current events in Lebanon, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that Egypt insists on Lebanon's unity and independence, is opposed to any attempt to partition Lebanon, rejects all form of foreign intervention in Lebanon and welcomes any solution coming from the United Nations.

On Syria's intervention in Lebanon and Egypt's opinion of Syria's attitude toward Lebanon's domestic affairs, Dr Ghali said: The situation is very complex because Syria entered Lebanon on the basis of an Arab League resolution. However, in view of the present facts in the Lebanese arena, we believe that the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon neither serves stability nor promotes peace.

Dr Ghali welcomed any European or international efforts aimed at solving the Lebanese problem, but he cautioned that efforts made within an international organization, particularly in the Security Council, would be opposed by the Soviet Union and that a resolution not welcomed by the Soviet Union may be vetoed.

Asked about the reported Egyptian intention to join an alliance for the defense of the Gulf region, Dr Ghali said that Egypt is committed and adheres to its firm policy of nonalignment with any power and of not joining any pact. He added: But we are prepared to provide facilities if the Gulf states come under any foreign threat. These facilities would only be given with the approval and at the request of the Arab sides interested in such a step.

On the possibility of European mediation between the PLO and Israel, Dr Ghali said Europe can play this role. This, he said, would be the first step toward mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

Asked if the European initiative would be a substitute for Camp David, Dr Ghali replied: We reject this view. We believe that coordination between the U.S. and European efforts is necessary and that complementary efforts between the two would yield good results in the interest of peace in the Middle East. We believe that the differences between the two initiatives can be overcome, leading up to coordination for the sake of peace.

On Egypt's attitude toward Al-Qadhdhafi, he said: We are against Al-Qadhdhafi's adventures, which are now evident in his interventions in Chad, Uganda, Central Africa, Tunisia, Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria and Sudan. We are opposed to all his actions in Africa, which we want to live in peace and stability outside the cold war.

Further on Press Conference

NC291720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)--Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has affirmed the need for UN forces to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

Answering a question about Egypt's stand on helping Syria if Israel declares war on Syria in Lebanon, Dr Ghali said: "If this happens, we will contact Israel and demand that Israel cease such actions. Furthermore, we will also hold other contacts, on the premise that we are a UN member state, to halt these actions which, we believe, are incompatible with the spirit of the Camp David agreement and hamper the peace process."

On Egypt's view on the establishment of permanent foreign military bases, Ghali said: We are not prepared to offer any permanent military bases on our territory, but we will give facilities on three conditions; namely, should aggression occur against any Arab or Islamic state, should that state ask for U.S. intervention and should the United States agree to intervene. Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out that so far no agreement has been reached with the United States on Ra's Banas. He said that if anything is reached, it will be on the basis of offering facilities.

Asked about the so-called Jordanian option, Ghali pointed out that that subject was not raised during his talks in London. He pointed out that Jordan was mentioned 14 times in the Camp David agreement. He said that we hope Jordan will participate in the negotiations. Our interpretation of the Jordanian option is that we ask Jordan to participate in the peace process. All options are open and it is important that the peace process continue because, according to our strategy, we are proceeding in the process of achieving peace in the area and we are not merely maneuvering.

Replying to a question on what he expects to develop from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's current trip to Moscow, Dr Ghali said that Al-Qadhdhafi has now become a (?source) of anxiety and annoyance in Africa after his interferences in Chad, Ghana, Tunisia, Senegal, Egypt and Sudan. He said: We are anxious because of these interferences in Africa, of which we are part and which needs peace and stability.

He expressed the hope that the forthcoming African summit conference in Nairobi will issue some resolutions aimed at containing al-Qadhdhafi's interference in Africa.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC301500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)--Egypt has condemned the Israeli actions in southern LeLanon and once again declared its rejection of all Israeli claims for intervention in Lebanon to protect the Christians there. Egypt has affirmed that Israel's intervention creates new obstacles in the way of the peace process in the Middle East and hinders the attempts and efforts being made to restore calm and stability in Lebanon and to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

A statement issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today says that while following with utmost interest the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, Egypt appeals to the Arab nation to call on its leaders to take a conscious view of the nature of the Syrian 'Alawite role in Lebanon and calls for the reformulation of the 1976 Riyadh summit resolutions and for assisting the legitimate authority to stop the bloodletting that Syria is imposing on the Lebanese people. The following is the text of the Foreign Ministry statement:

In light of the continuing military escalation in the Lebanese arena in past hours and its definite danger to peace in the area, and as a result of the Foreign Ministry's urgent consultations and continuing assessment of the situation in Lebanon, Egypt reaffirms that it is following with utmost interest the deteriorating situation in fraternal Lebanon. The situation there is worsening daily as a result of the suspect Syrian 'Alawite role imposing conditions aimed only at entrenching sectarian division and encroaching on the legitimate Lebanese Government and Lebanese sovereignty. This is a continuation of the disgraceful Syrian role at Tall az-Za'tar in striking at the nationalist forces.

From the beginning, Egypt has called attention to the importance of not leaving Lebanon a prey for Syrian greed or a pretext for attempts by Damascus to cover up its deteriorating internal situation. Egypt has demanded that Lebanon be left to its people and legitimate government. Accordingly, the framework of the Riyadh summit resolutions in 1976 preserved full powers and sovereignty of the legitimate Lebanese Government and stressed the Arab factor in forming the deterrent forces--preventing Syria from unilaterally forming those forces.

The events that Syria has imposed on Lebanon in the past number of years and that Syria has escalated in the past few days open Lebanon and the area to foreign interference that will expose fraternal Lebanon and the entire region to grave dangers threatening the area's security and stability, in addition to the suffering that the Syrian presence is imposing on the Lebanese people.

As Egypt is putting these facts to the peoples of the area, it urges the Arab nation to call on its leaders to consciously view the nature of the Syrian 'Alawite role in Lebanon and its excesses against the interests of the people of the area. Egypt urges the Arab nation to call on its leaders to demand the reformulation of the 1976 Riyadh summit resolutions and to help the legitimate government stop the bloodshed Syria is continuing to impose on the Lebanese people.

Similarly, Egypt condemns Israel's actions in southern Lebanon, its fanning of sectarian prejudice, and its escalation of the situation by military intervention and violation of the sovereignty of the Lebanese territory as well as international agreements and charters.

The Israeli intervention in Lebanon is only aimed at exacerbating the intensity of the conflict in the area, and Egypt rejects all of Israel's claims for intervention in Lebanon to protect the Christians. Muslims and Christians have coexisted in the area for thousands of years and before the establishment of Israel. The Israeli intervention, in addition to constituting a flagrant aggression against Lebanon, creates new obstacles in the way of the peace process in the Middle East and hinders the attempts and efforts being made to restore calm and stability in Lebanon and to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

COMMENTARY VIEWS CHANCE OF SYRIA-ISRAEL CLASH

NC301652 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman commentary: "The Possibilities of Israeli-Syrian Confrontation"]

[Text] The present situation in Lebanon could explode at any time now that Syria has deployed SAM-6 missile batteries in the Al-Biqa' area to protect its forces in Lebanon against Israeli air raids. News reports say that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is holding contacts and consultations with his senior aides to assess the situation in light of the deployment of these missiles in Lebanon. An informed Israeli source has said that Syria has gone beyond the danger limit in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, for more than one reason we do not think that a full-scale Syrian-Israeli confrontation could take place. Syria will not risk embarking on a war with Israel while it has 30,000 soldiers in Lebanon. Syria also has not completely secured its positions against the Phalangists, who could exploit such a confrontation to attack Syria's forces. Furthermore, there are signs indicating the existence of tension in the relations between Syria and the Gulf states because of the situation in Lebanon, threatening to stop the Gulf states' financial aid to Syria. The Gulf states also have reservations regarding the nature of Syrian-Soviet relations, which has prompted Saudi Crown Prince Fahd to describe Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a Soviet agent. It also appears that Soviet arms shipments to Syria are not proceeding on schedule and that Syria asked the Libyan colonel to intervene in this matter during his recent visit to Moscow. In addition, there are the continuing internal disturbances in Syria between the Ba'thist regime and its opponents.

If we look at the Israeli side, we will also notice that it is unlikely that Menahem Begin will enter a war while he is approaching general elections and while his election campaign against his strong rival, the opposition Labor Party, fully depends on the fact that he is the man who concluded the peace treaty with Egypt. Therefore, he will not risk, at least at this stage, exposing peace in the Middle East to danger by violating one of the treaty clauses and starting a war against one of the Arab states.

The United States last night also stressed its disapproval of Israel's intervention in Lebanon's events, contrary to what Begin tried to indicate by saying that there is U.S.-Israeli agreement in this respect. This shows that there are U.S.-Israeli political disagreements. Of course, it is totally unlikely that Begin will risk at this time entering into a confrontation with the United States while the new U.S. administration has not yet finished defining its Middle East policy.

What then is likely to happen? We think that matters will not go beyond a Syrian-Israeli confrontation that would be limited in scope and limited in objectives, like the confrontation that took place between them last Tuesday or like the Israeli operations against the Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon. The Israeli forces may try to attack these missiles by employing airborne commando units supported by armored vehicles or by using air attack tactics developed from experiences in the October war.

Finally, we would like to affirm that between the hammer of the Israeli forces and the hammer of the Syrian forces the Lebanese crisis is continuing to worsen and the bleeding and destruction in Lebanon is continuing without any signs on the horizon of an imminent radical solution.

AL-AKHBAR SUGGESTS SYRIA, ISRAEL IN COLLUSION

NC301314 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR today carries a commentary entitled: "Is It an Agreement Between Syria and Israel?" The paper begins its article by elucidating that the warning issued by Israel to Syria concerning the latter's operations in Zahlah and some Lebanese positions has firstly harmed the Lebanese Christians and has secondly denuded the Syrians' real stance.

AL-AKHBAR believes that the Israeli warning has harmed the Christians because Israel has justified its warning by stating that it is responsible for protecting the Christians. There can be no doubt that this justification has embarrassed the Christians. The Christian leaders in Lebanon have made statements in this vein. They said: Israel's intervention has caused us considerable embarrassment. It has portrayed us to the world as desirous of Israel's protection.

The paper goes on to explain that the warning has equally exposed the real Syrian stands made by the Israeli and Syrian statements. Menahem Begin spoke of the operation which the Israeli forces have carried out and in which two Israeli [as heard] aircraft have been downed. Begin then emphasized: We do not want to harm the Syrians. However, we are committed to defend the Christians' security. He accused Syria of having violated the status which Israel had hoped to achieve.

Then came the Syrian, or rather the Ba'thist, position on the Israeli aggression and on the downing of the two Syrian aircraft. Syria did not utter a word about Israel. Nor did Syria react to the Israeli warning, not even by rejecting or deploring this warning. All that happened is that Damascus radio broadcast a statement--termed official--which said that Syria is determined to achieve an understanding in Lebanon. This statement added that downing the two Syrian helicopters deep in Lebanese territory is regarded as a serious and a new heightening of the Lebanese crisis. This is all that has come from Syria on Israel's challenge.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the situation calmed down in Zahlah yesterday, adding that the Syrian forces have not made any countermove. This signifies that the Syrian rulers have heeded Israel's warning. Hitherto it was believed that a clash was unavoidable on accout of this warning, which was issued in the form of a challenge. It was also believed that this clash would develop into large-scale fighting. The British Embassy even asked British nationals to leave Lebanon, except for those whose stay is essential. However, the Syrians preferred to ensure their safety.

The paper emphasizes that Syria's position has been known and been understood ever since the beginning of Lebanon's plight, when Israel overran Lebanese territory and seized some strategic harbors and positions, and again when the international community moved and a decision was made to dispatch the so-called emergency forces to take control of the situation and settle the differences. However, Israel has continued to perpetrate its recurring acts of aggression, and the Syrian forces--which represent the deterrent forces--kept at quite a distance from the Israeli positions until separating itself from them by a line which it would not cross. [as heard] The clashes then ceased after prolonged fighting. The Syrian forces do not fire a single round in the direction of the Israelis. This is the position to which the Ba'thist 'Alawites have kept.

The paper notes that when voices are raised to emphasize the need for forming and bolstering the Lebanese Army, so that it will defend its homeland and country, Syria is dissatisfied. Israel also opposes the formation and strengthening of the Lebanese Army.

If a call is made for achieving national unity in Lebanon to unite the Christians and Muslims, Syria opposes this unity. Israel also opposes this unity as it does not want it to emerge. AL-AKHBAR wonders: Is this an agreement between Syria and Israel? While the former feigns to be protecting the Muslims, the latter feigns to be the protecting Christians. And while both these two states have goals and purposes in Lebanon--goals and purposes which constitute the object of the agreement between the two sides?

The paper says: It is quite possible that this agreement exists. Perhaps this agreement is a fact and it is the causative factor in the complication of the Lebanese problem. The greatest evidence about the existence of this agreement is furnished by the fact that neither Syria nor Israel will agree to withdraw from the Lebanese arena and leave it to the Lebanese officials and leaders to tackle their issue themselves.

AL-AKHBAR says, in concluding today's article: Egypt has called on the Arab states to face up to their responsibility and to exert quick, serious and just efforts aimed at aiding the legitimate authority in Lebanon in imposing its sovereignty, ending the slaughtering and preventing intervention by any foreign quarter, be this Arab or not.

INFORMATION MINISTER DENIES PRESS CENSORSHIP

NC301532 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] The People's Assembly today resumed its meetings under Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib. At the beginning of the meeting, an assembly member submitted a question regarding the instructions issued by the press office of the Information Ministry to the national newspapers banning the publication of any reactions to the book by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman. Mansur Hasan, the minister of state for the presidency, information and culture, replied that censorship of the press has been completely abolished since 1974, and that it will not be reimposed in the future. He explained that there is only a Press Liaison Office in the Information Ministry responsible for passing the news to the newspapers and that it does not exercise any censorship authority. He added that publication is the responsibility of the editors in chief in accordance with the press reorganization law.

The national and party newspapers have published a number of reactions to the book by Engineer 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, and this is the best proof that press censorship does not exist.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 322

JN301643 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)--The Iraqi Armed Forces continued to pound the Persian enemy's remnants and pockets with various weapons in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. Communique No 322 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening on the results of the operations last night and today said that the capable Iraqi forces inflicted on the enemy, in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region alone, 68 dead and a large number of wounded and destroyed 4 infantry positions, 5 tanks and 4 TOW missile launchers. It added that total enemy losses in the past 24 hours were: 132 dead and 8 infantry positions, 5 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 field gun, 4 vehicles, 4 TOW missile launchers, 4 observation posts, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 1 excavator destroyed or captured. The text of Communique No 322 issued by the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: With deep faith in the justice of our war against the Magian Persian aggressors and with heroic enthusiasm, our valiant armed forces continued to pound the enemy in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following result:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our capable units continued to pound the enemy's remanants and pockets with various weapons in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 68 and wounding a large number of personnel, and destroying 4 infantry positions, 5 tanks, 4 TOW missile launchers and 1 observation post and capturing 1 serviceable field gun.
B. Our units hit enemy concentrations in the Gilan-e Gharb region with various weapons and forced them to flee after killing 14 and destroying 3 infantry positions, 1 vehicle loaded with hardware and 1 observation post.
C. Five were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Mimak region in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. One vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. Six were killed in the Shush region.
F. Three were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
G. One armored personnel carrier, one vehicle and one excavator were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
H. Our brave units launched several raids on enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region and hit them hard with various weapons, inflicting the following losses: 36 were killed, a large number were wounded and 1 infantry position, 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 vehicle, 1 observation post and 3 stockpiles of hardware were destroyed.

Thus, total known enemy losses were: 132 dead and 8 infantry positions, 5 tanks, 2 armored personnel carriers, 1 field gun, 4 vehicles, 4 TOW missile launchers, excavator, 4 observation posts and 3 stockpiles of hardware destroyed or captured.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 28 martyrs in all sectiors.
B. In equipment: Two tanks, four personnel carriers, nine vehicles, two mortars, three field guns and one excavator damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 April 1981

KUWAITI PAPER CITED ON RECENT IRAQI ARMS DEALS

NC290825 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 29 Apr (AFP)--Iraq has spent more than 2,000 million dollars in a series of recent arms deals, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reported today, quoting Western diplomatic sources. It said the buys included spare parts needed for all three arms of Iraq's Armed Forces, which have been at war with neighbouring Iran since September. The weapons were bought from certain Arab states, other foreign countries and on the free market in the West, the paper reported.

AL-QASIM VIEWS HAIG VISIT, PLO RELATIONS, GULF WAR

JN301235 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait--Foreign Affairs Minister Marwan al-Qasim has affirmed that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig was confronted with a solid wall of objective Arab truths, adding that he had understood, to a certain extent, the Arab stand on the Palestinian issue during his visits to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He added that it can be said that Haig failed to discuss the [U.S.] proposal, which does not harm the Zionist enemy as much as it does the Arab and Palestinian issue. [sentence as heard]

In an interview with the Kuwaiti weekly AL-YAQAZAH, to be published Friday, he cited the so-called Jordanian option, saying there is no option but the Palestinian option. It is unfortunate that some Arab sides are promoting this so-called option. Indeed, this is all against the sublime and national Arab interests. Jordan's relations with the PLO are good.

Al-Qasim affirmed Jordan's support for Iraq in its war with Iran. He called on the other Arab states to adopt a similar stand.

AD-DUSTUR VIEWS SYRIA'S 'CONSPIRATORIAL ROLE'

JN010842 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "The Damascus Rulers and Their Conspiratorial Role," AD-DUSTUR writes: It is no longer a secret that the Syrian rulers' Lebanese mask is part of their link in the international game to partition Lebanon and reorganize the situation in the area--a game in which Syria has been involved following its departure from the Arab march on the pretext of attaining a balance of the powers, whereas their goal has been and still is to involve the area in the maelstrom of international conflict. Hence the stepping up of campaigns and contentions against Jordan, foremost of which is the cover up of the Syrian regime's role in accordance with the designs of the international game. These designs are aimed at weakening the Arab stand and shaking its solidarity so that the Arabs would be unable to abort the serious plot to liquidate the Palestinian issue and return the Arab region to the sphere of foreign influence and subservience.

Jordan and the Arab countries have realized the real conspiratorial role of the Syrian regime ever since it started to torpedo Arab solidarity at the Islamic foreign ministers' meetings and to obstruct the convocation of the Amman summit conference. The Arabs have collectively decided to thwart the Damascus rulers' attempts and the crises they are fabricating to justify their departure from Arab unanimity.

The deeper Al-Asad's involvement in the international game gets, the more he steps up campaigns of terror, torture and killing against the sons of the Syrian people who reject and oppose the Syrian leadership's deviation from the pan-Arab course. This factional regime is stepping up its onslaughts against Jordan to divert attention from its suspect links and crimes against its people, nation and its fateful issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

In conclusion AD-DUSTUR says: The Damascus rulers are aware before others that their contentions and lies will not affect Arab unanimity on Jordan's healthy stand and its full harmony with Arab unanimity. The Damascus rulers are also aware that their leader's threats against Jordan will founder on Jordan's rock of steadfastness, the people's cohesion and their rallying round their leadership and armed forces not only in defense of their land but also in defense of the Arab nation's dignity and issues and against the plots being hatched in darkness by the Syrian regime to liquidate the Palestinian issue and torpedo Arab solidarity.

AMMAN REPORTS ON SITUATION IN SYRIA'S HAMAH

JN292050 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Damascus--Reports from the Syrian city of Hamah indicate that defense squads were able to storm the city on 23 April following a siege of several days. These reports add that the defense squads units are combing the various quarters of the city, storming its houses. These forces, the reports explain, were faced by violent resistance from the revolting inhabitants of the city, who destroyed three tanks and several military vehicles. The inhabitants' resistance forced the attacking squads to shell the city with missile batteries and tank guns, resulting in scores of deaths and hundreds wounded. A large number of houses and buildings, including the mosque of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, were destroyed. Reports from Hamah also indicate that the bodies are still in the streets and that large numbers of burned vehicles can be seen on both sides of the main road leading to the city. Meanwhile, all shops and stores and public departments are closed as defense squads patrols rove the streets and supervise the distribution of food to inhabitants. The revolting elements in the city were able to kill seven members of the Syrian security forces who were in a vehicle that was transporting them to one of the city's quarters.

In another development a group of revolutionaries, dressed in special forces uniforms, attacked the villages of Kurum and At-Tawahin in the area of Al-Jabal in Hamah Province. The revolutionaries were retaliating for barbaric acts and mass murders being carried out by the defense squads. The inhabitants of these two villages are part of the 'Alawite community, whose members make up the defense squads units. Some 40 of the villages' inhabitants were killed and 100 others wounded in this clash, which lasted for more than 2 hours.

Amman Commentary

JN271823 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] The worsening situation in the city of Hamah definitely pushed the Syrian president to launch a campaign full of abusive words yesterday in a fruitless attempt to divert attention from the massacre that is taking place in that city. This second massacre Hafiz al-Asad has committed against the Syrian people, the first being in Tudmur, has disclosed the reality of this regime and has marked the beginning of the regime's collapse.

If President al-Asad thinks that by the use of such attacks on Jordan he will be able to divert the attention of his people from what is happening in Syrian cities, he is absolutely wrong. On this occasion we want to advise Lt Gen Hafiz al-Asad that he had better not pin hopes on mercenaries and agents who give him the impression that he has a party in Jordan, for here in Jordan everybody sees in Al-Asad nothing but the character of a murderer, dictator and an enemy of the Arabs.

ACCORD COMMITTEE SETS SUNDAY GOAL FOR PLAN

NC301414 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] During a meeting held at noon today between President Ilyas Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, the results of the consultations to achieve accord, held in the Republican Palace in the past 2 days with Lebanese officials in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, were reviewed.

Later, in the presence of Prime Minister al-Wazzan, President Sarkis chaired a meeting of the ministerial accord committee. Attending the meetings were Ministers Joseph Abu Khatir, 'Ali al-Khalil, Qaysar Nasr, Marwan Hamadah, Salim al-Jahil and Dr Nazih al-Bizri. After the meeting which lasted until 1300, Minister Abu Khatir made the following statement: We will meet again in the Repubican Palace tomorrow to prepare a work program that will be submitted to President Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan before Sunday, God willing. It is highly likely that this program will be a basis for resuming the current talks between Syria and Lebanon.

UK ADVISES CITIZENS TO LEAVE; MINISTRY CONCERNED

JN300708 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Ministry sources have expressed apprehension over the step taken yesterday by the British Embassy in Beirut, which advised its subjects in Lebanon to leave the country. Reports cite the same sources as saying the ministry contacted the British Embassy and received clarifications on the reasons for the embassy's advice to its subjects. The Austrian Embassy followed suit. However, the U.S. and French Embassies announced that they had no intention at present of issuing similar advice to the American and French citizens residing in Lebanon.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR MEETS BUTRUS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC301134 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] At 0930 today Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus met in a presidential office with French Ambassador to Lebanon Louis Delamare with whom he reviewed the latest developments.

Later Ambassador Delamare said: I believe, as April comes to an end which is very tragic, there will be a ray of hope for Lebanon in May. The French ambassador said that he met with Minister Butrus within the framework of the close contacts and friendship between Lebanon and France. Delamare added: I cannot reveal the details of the talks but these dealt with various questions which are being examined by the two countries concerning the bilateral relations, the international repercussions and the events in Lebanon. Ambassador Delamare added: I have informed Minister Butrus of the French Government's views regarding the development in the situation. Once again, I hope that the beautiful month of May will bring calm to Lebanon.

UN SPOKESMAN CLARIFIES HELICOPTER INCIDENT

NC010854 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] The UNIFIL spokesman issued a statement this morning concerning the incident in which the helicopter carrying the commander of the UN forces in the south, Gen William Callaghan, came under fire during its flight from Qana village to An-Naqurah. The statement says:

When the helicopter was heading toward An-Naqurah, several Katyusha rockets were fired from the Ar-Rashidiyah area toward the south; some of the rockets fell near the Lebanese-Israeli border. The helicopter's flight path might have crossed the line of the rockets fire. The helicopter immediately turned around and landed in the area of the French engineering corps. It remained on the ground from 1515-1645 on 29 April because after the rocket firing, the fait accompli forces opened artillery fire on the Al-Qulay'ah and Ar-Rashidiyah area. The helicopter then went to An-Naqurah without facing any other problems.

The statement issued by the UN official spokesman rules out the opening of direct fire on the helicopter. It also rules out the use of Katyusha rockets as an antiaircraft weapon.

LEBANESE ARMY UNIT ARRIVES IN SOUTH 30 APR

NC301550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] The Lebanese Army unit operating within UNIFIL crossed the Al-Awwali bridge at 1510 today en route to the Lebanese Army headquarters in Arzun.

In the city of Sidon, which the unit left at 1530, the people received the Lebanese Army convoy with cheers and applause. After that the convoy, led by Capt Zafir al-Haj and his assistant 1st Lt Ahmad Isma'il, moved along the coastal road running from Sidon to az-Zahrani, the Al-Qasimiyah bridge and then Arzun.

Lebanese military sources report that the Lebanese Army units operating within UNIFIL will resume implementing the tasks assigned them according to the new deployment plan in the next 48 hours.

Commenting on the entry of the Lebanese Army into the south, former Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has said: The entry of the Lebanese Army into the south comes at a time when the Israeli enemy's attacks are intensifying and his attempts to kindle sedition and hinder the march of national accord are increasing.

Al-Khalil said that this step is not confined onto to the army's presence in the UNIFIL operation area. He said that it goes beyond that to future deployments in the border areas as far as the internationally recognized frontier in order to liberate the homeland from the direct and indirect Israeli occupation and to extend the state's sovereignty throughout Lebanon. He added that the dimensions of this step go beyond implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and helping UNIFIL. They also include strengthening the legitimate government and performing the national duty of defending southern Lebanon, supporting the Palestinian question, consolidating national unity and boosting the march toward accord.

SHAM'UN CONDEMNS SYRIA MISSILE INSTALLATION

NC301554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Commenting on the developments between Syria and Israel and the establishment of SAM missile bases in Al-Biqa', former President Camille Sham'un has said that current information indicates that the Syrians have installed SAM-6 missile bases in western Al-Biqa'. He said that the Israeli reaction is manifested in the meeting the Israeli command held today, the results of which are not yet known.

Sham'un said: In my opinion what has happened contravenes all agreements between Syria and Israel, because among the number of red lines, one line stipulates that Syria must not establish antiaircraft missile bases on Lebanese territory. As for the result of this action, we will have to await reactions.

DENIAL OF AL-JUMAYYIL-KHADDAM MEETING REPORTED

NC301734 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese forces command today denied reports that have been published in certain papers to the effect that a meeting was held between Lebanese forces commander Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The source added that this report, which was hinted at by certain news media yesterday and openly published today, is false and groundless.

HADDAD COMMENTS ON AL-QADHDHAFI, DEVELOPMENTS

NC301321 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Comments by free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad; place and date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] 1. All we needed was for us to have Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi express his opinion rejecting the internationalization of the Lebanese issue. Of course, Al-Qadhdhafi expresses such an opinion because, since 1975, Al-Qadhdhafi has been lavishing huge sums of money on the saboteurs to crush the Christians in Lebanon. This expenditure of money has given him the right to express his opinion.

At any rate, the world understands that the protector and financier of world sabotage and terrorism is Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in person. Therefore, we ask His Excellency President Anwar as-Sadat never to hesitate to crush the head of the snake by crushing Al-Qadhdhafi and his regime. This would serve mankind and the civilized world community--and Egypt belongs to this community.

2. To those who have called themselves the "committee of the 15th century hegira," I say: The sectarian venoms which you are spitting out will boomerang and kill you.

3. The 'Alawite regime has announced that it will check any Israeli intervention in Lebanon against the Syrian Army. To back up its words by actions, the men of the invading Syrian Army remained without food and water throughout yesterday and the day before in the ridges of Sannin. The reason is that the Syrian helicopters did not dare fly in the skies of Al-Biqa' and Sannin for fear of the Israeli pilots.

4. We wonder how 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has insolently shaken hands with some Lebanese, while his hands are still stained with Lebanese blood, bearing in mind that hitherto, he has succeeded in snaring the Lebanese by inducing them to admit that the basic issue in Lebanon is a purely Lebanese one. Thus, the Lebanese have acquainted Khaddam with the massacres which his army has perpetrated in Lebanon. Therefore, 'Abd al-Halim has posed simultaneously as an arbiter and as one who works to reconcile the various Lebanese quarters. He also protrays himslef as seeking to implement the 14 principles of reconciliation issued by President Sarkis and previously prepared by the 'Alawite regime. At this point I address myself to the Lebanese to tell them that those who have exterminated the people of Ad-Damur, Al-Jiyah, As-Sa'diyat and Al-'Ayshiyah. Those who have destroyed and are still destroying the quarters of (?eastern) Beirut and those who are launching a genocidal war against the residents of Zahlah can bring about nothing good for Lebanon and the Lebanese.

Major Haddad said: Let the Lebanese insist on one demand and not retract from it by an inch, regardless of the cost and the sacrifices. This demand is the unconditional exit of the Syrian occupation forces from Lebanon, together with the saboteurs.

LEBANON'S FUTURE IN HANDS OF 'VARIOUS POLITICIANS'

JN010824 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 May 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] A commentary in the paper TISHRIN on the accord and challenges in Lebanon says: While Lebanese accord constitutes an urgent phased goal and a step in the right direction, it will harm many sides both inside and outside the Lebanese arena. A Lebanese accord will thwart the schemes of more than one quarter, since these quarters will find it hard to see accord, dialogue and serenity replace fragmentation, shells, smoke and fire.

When we say that there are quarters inside the Lebanese arena who are apprehensive about the accord process, we do not forget that Israel and U.S. imperialism are the main sides to be harmed by such accord. Why?

It is because Tel Aviv and Washington use the Lebanese card in every new plot they want to peddle against the Arab nation. This is what occurred in 1975 and 1978 when As-Sadat signed the disengagement agreement and the unilateral peace treaty.

The Lebanese national accord, which constitutes the first step in the right direction, is now passing through a difficult test. It is necessary for everyone to emerge victorious from this test however great the plots and challenges and however varied their sources.

Lebanon's future is now in the hands of the various politicians. Such an opportunity should not be allowed to slip away without being seized by the Lebanese, since it is in this opportunity that their salvation lies. Lebanon has had enough bloody years.

JORDAN-MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CLASHES REPORTED

JN011014 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 1 May (SANA)--The Jordanian capital was recently the scene of regrettable events and armed clashes between members of the Muslim Brotherhood gangs and nationalist elements. Jordanian security elements rushed to the scene of clashes near the grand mosque in the center of Amman. The results of these clashes are not yet known.

Citing arrivals from Amman, AL-BA'TH reports that the clashes took place early yesterday. Traffic came to a standstill in the area and on the salt road. The arrivals said that the clashes occurred when joint elements of the Muslim brothers and Jordanian security [word indistinct] some elements believed to be men of the Palestinian resistance.

It is to be recalled that the township of Al-Karak last month witnessed bloody clashes between elements of the Muslim brothers and nationalist groups, as a result of which two citizens were killed. The Jordanian authorities threw a cloak of secrecy over the incident and banned the victims' relatives from holding funerals.

Knowledgeable sources have said that the Jordanian authorities carried out a campaign of arrests against nationalist elements in Ma'daba and Al-Karak and [words indistinct]. These sources said that the shaky situation in Jordan, the effects of which have extended to the capital, will inevitably lead to confrontation between [words indistinct].

BEGIN, LEWIS DISCUSS LEBANON SITUATION 1 MAY

TA011228 Jerusalem Domestic in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, again spoke today about the situation in Lebanon. Correspondent David Essing says that the two exchanged appraisals by phone about the latest developments. Israeli officials deny reports that the ambassador brought special messages from either President Reagan or Secretary of State Haig to the prime minister. The officials say that the contacts between Israel and the United States are being held in the normal way.

BEGIN BRIEFS COMMITTEE ON LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS

TA301525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Sharp verbal exchanges took place today between Mr Begin and opposition members in the course of the prime minister's briefing of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee on the developments in Lebanon. This was reported by our correspondent, Shmu'el Tal:

The Alignment representatives were particularly alarmed by the prime minister's remarks that exactly what happened to the Jews during the Holocaust is being done to the Christians in Lebanon. Yosi Sarid suggested deleting the word "exactly" but Mr Begin persisted. Then Mr Rabin said that, at least on the Holocaust memorial day, the two should not be compared. Begin's reply was that the Alignment was mixing May Day with the Holocaust memorial day. On your May Day, Mr Begin said, you shut down the newspapers; only three places in the world was May Day marked, and still is: in Israel, in the Soviet Union and in Nazi Germany. At this point, tempers flared. Yosi Sarid said that the prime minister was talking like a petty politician and asked: Who would believe that children and women in Lebanon worry him?

There were also sharp exchanges over Shim'on Peres' accusations that Mr Begin did not let the opposition in on the important developments in Lebanon. Begin announced that he has changed his mind about his intention to report to Peres on Lebanon because of the Alignment's accusations that the Likud had allegedly organized the mudslinging against the Labor Party chairman during the Mimuna rally in Jerusalem--accusations which Begin termed a libelous. Finally it was decided that the substantive debate, that is, on the issue of Lebanon, will take place one day in the near future.

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON SYRIAN MISSILE ISSUE

TA301543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Israel has no confirmation of the reports that the Syrians have stationed surface-to-air missiles in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. This was stated by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Begin this afternoon. Political correspondent Gad Backer heard his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Begin] This is then a new development but we do not have authoritative reports on the stationing of the missiles. Monte Carlo Radio carried such a report. By my experience I know that the Israeli radio, too, sometimes carries a report that is not found to be true. We should then examine the situation and we are doing so.

[Becker] The prime minister was asked whether in his opinion there is a danger that events in the north will develop into an armed confrontation with Syria.

[Begin] The entire situation is loaded with dangers. Nobody denies this. I estimate and think that there will not be a war between Syria and Israel. I am saying this for a simple reason: we do not want this and I do not think that Syria desires a war with Israel. Syria has its reasons for this while we do not want any war with Syria. We do not wany any war. We signed a peace treaty with Egypt. This is a historic turning point in Israel's status in the Middle East. We made many sacrifices in signing the peace treaty and why did we do this? Because we want to give our people a historic period of peace without bereavement and orphans. Therefore, we do not want any war with Syria. We will do everything so that no war erupts. I think that Syria has good reasons--its internal and external situation, its knowledge of the power ratio between Syria and Israel--not to want to wage war on Israel. Therefore, I assume there will be no war, although, if you ask me again, there are certainly dangers.

[Becker] The prime minister reacted at length to Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali's remarks in London yesterday according to which Egypt attributes more weight to its commitments to the Arab world than to those it has for Israel.

[Begin] First I would like to draw the attention of the professor for international law, Dr Peter Ghali. [as heard] Why am I saying Peter and not Butrus? He himself, Dr Ghali, told me that President as-Sadat, when he is on good terms with him, calls him Butrus. When President as-Sadat is angry with him he calls him Peter. Since he told me this, both President as-Sadat and myself, when we are angry with Dr Ghali we call him Peter. As you may know he is Copt, a Christian, and therefore he may be trying to be a better Muslim than Muhammad himself, especially with regard to Israel. Therefore, if it is true that he said that Egypt's commitments toward the Arab countries, the commitments that preceded the peace treaty with Israel, are more binding on Egypt than the peace treaty, or that their value outweighs the value of the peace treaty, then like a lazy student he has not prepared his homework. I think that a professor should serve as an example to the students--homework should be done. I understand that later he totally denied this story. Well, I asked to see the original version of his remarks. In any event, from the point of view of the peace treaty, this has no value and I hope they carry no value at all. Well, what then? Professor Ghali has made a mistake then--this is neither the first nor the last time. [end recording]

Further Details

TA301926 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin said today that Israel has no well-founded information on whether or not the Syrians have indeed stationed surface-to-air missiles in Lebanon. Last night the IDF spokesman confirmed the report that the missiles had been stationed.

Our political correspondent says that it is not inconceivable that the prime minister's statements constitute part of Israel's efforts to prevent an exacerbation of the situation in Lebanon, an exacerbation that might lead to a military confrontation. These efforts are part of a diplomatic campaign in which the United States also is playing a part. The prime minister's statements were made following a special Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting in which a report on the latest developments in Lebanon were heard. Here is a report by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram:

[Begin videotape] [Ram] Mr Prime Minister, how do you react to the fact that when such an important and delicate subject was discussed, things still slid into those very interesting and noisy statements, as you described them, in the second half of the debate?

[Begin] Ask the opposition.

[Ram] Only the opposition?

[Begin] Yes, yes.

[Ram] Mr Prime Minister, is there danger of an escalation that would lead to an armed confrontation between Syria and Israel?

[Begin] I have already been asked this question and I do not remember what I replied and I have no other answer. In general, in this situation there are dangers. No one is denying this. I estimate and I think that there will be no war between Syria and Israeli, for a simple reason: we do not want it and I do not think that Syria is rushing toward a war with Israel. And it has reasons not to rush. We do not want any war with Syria.

[Unidentified correspondent] Last night the IDF spokesman issued a statement confirming that Syrian surface-to-air missiles have indeed been stationed in Lebanon. Is the report not correct, or has it been found out that this report is incorrect?

[Begin] The IDF spokesman has a large variety of duties. My job is much more modest: I am merely a prime minister. Therefore, I have the right to tell you what I told you. We are studying the situation. [end videotape]

PERES DEMANDS THAT COMMITTEE DISCUSS LEBANON

TA301928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres demands that the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee be convened for a detailed discussion on the situation in Lebanon. At the end of a political debate by the committee's Alignment members, Peres said that at today's meeting the prime minister did not allow the holding of a discussion and this comes after a long period in which the opposition was not a partner to political events. According to Mr Peres, several principles should guide Israel's policy: Israel does not want a war with Syria; Israel will do everything to protect the Israeli settlements in the north and will help the Christians to help themselves.

JERUSALEM EXPECTS SOLUTION WITHOUT CONFRONTATION

TA010537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 May 81

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Jerusalem still believes that the present crisis will find solution without a military confrontation with the Syrians. Apparently, the prime minister and the ministerial team that is dealing with the crisis will accede to the U.S. request to allow it to use diplomatic means to deal with the affair of the missiles that the Syrians have positioned in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' region.

Last night the U.S. ambassador to Israel came to the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. This was their second meeting within the past 48 hours. Samuel Lewis stressed that the United States is now in the midst of diplomatic moves aimed at convincing the Syrians to move back the SAM-6 missiles they have placed in the Al-Biqa' region.

In parallel, authoritative sources in the defense establishment have been asked to examine the Syrians' intention: were the missiles positioned at these particular sites with the intention of leaving them there? Or was this a propaganda move which the Syrians played up--with the communications media accompanying the trucks that brought the missiles to the Al-Biqa' region? This morning the prime minister and the senior ministerial team are expected to receive an authoritative assessment regarding these questions.

We have no authoritative reports about the positioning of the missiles, Menahem Begin stated yesterday as he sought to lower the tone in the drama which the IDF spokesman also played a part in forging. Political circles in Jerusalem termed the IDF spokesman's confirmation of the positioning of the missiles in the Al-Biqa' region a premature announcement.

In any event, one thing is clear: Israel will not acquiesce in the presence of surface-to-air missiles in the Al-Biqa' region in Lebanon. The diplomatic moves will be exhausted in an aim to get the missiles removed. We have no intention of going to war against the Syrians, the prime minister stressed yesterday. However, government circles emphasized, if the missiles are not removed decisions will be made as they were made when it became clear that the United States had failed in its efforts to get the Syrians to put a stop to their shellings and pressure which were aimed at forcing the Christians in northern Lebanon to surrender.

REMARKS ON SYRIAN-NAZI COMPARISON DENIED

TA301718 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] About an hour ago the following statement was issued by the prime minister's office: Based on a distorted leak from the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, the media reported that the prime minister had reportedly said that the Syrians act toward the Christians in Lebanon the same way the Nazis treated the Jews. Such remarks never left the Prime Minister's mouth, either at the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee or at any other opportunity. The prime minister said that the Syrian Army and the murderous terrorists treat the civilian population exactly the way the Nazis treated it. [as heard] And this is the truth. They carry out bombings of cities and shellings with heavy artillery in order to kill men, women and children. This is how the Nazis behaved.

KIMCHE DENIES REPORT ON PROPOSAL TO SYRIA

TA301950 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] We have yet another report on the confrontation between Israel and Syria against the background of events in Lebanon. The British BBC network opened its evening newscast tonight with a report on a proposal made by the Israeli Foreign Ministry's director general, David Kimche, for a peaceful solution of the problem of the Syrian military presence in Al-Biqa'. Our monitor, Mikhabel Gurdus, reports that the Israeli proposal includes a recognition of Syria's control over Al-Biqa' for its significance for Syria's defense.

The BBC's Jerusalem correspondent quotes the director general of the Foreign Ministry. According to him, David Kimche said that for the sake of controlling Al-Biqa', the Syrians do not have to penetrate the Lebanese cities and strike the Christians. According to the same source, Kimche said that Israel will not agree to annexing Al-Biqa' to Syria, but this does not mean that it will venture out on a war against such a move.

As for the stationing of surface-to-air missiles, Kimche said this was a grave problem, adding that Israel would carefully consider ways to react to it without causing a war.

The director general of the Foreign Ministry tonight totally denied the report alleging that there is a proposal to recognize the Syrian control of the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region. However, he said, this does not mean that Israel would necessarily take military means to stop this presence.

PAPER SAYS SOVIETS BEHIND SYRIAN OFFENSIVE

TA301200 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 81 p 3

[Eli Feingersh commentary: "Escalation in Lebanon: The Big Boys Play With Fire"]

[Excerpt] According to the information that has accumulated in Israel and in the United States, the Soviet Union is behind the Syrian offensive in Lebanon--an offensive which was planned by Soviet officers and is being conducted by them at a high level. The probability for this estimation is extremely high, since the Syrian military initiative was launched in technical integration and simultaneously with the Soviets' political initiative for the holding of an international conference to resolve the Middle East conflict, with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO. In this political-military move in its regional alignment, the Soviet Union is seeking to once again be a factor and a partner in Middle East decisions. This is the first time it has used this military alignment for a dual purpose: to conquer additional territory in a target state and to gain a political position in a global conflict zone. In the conquest of Angola, South Yemen and Ethiopia, the Soviet system employed foreign forces (Cubans) on a large scale, which decided the fighting between the local rival forces; in the conquest of Chad, Libyan forces were used. The Soviet achievements in these places were swift and accomplished with relative ease. Because of the "Israeli limitation" in Syria, the pro-Soviet alignment is employing both military forces and a clever political move, with characteristic Soviet coordination.

That all these regions of activity of this system have in common is the laying of a logistical infrastructure for military action and the presence of Soviet and East German officers and advisers at the scene of the action. The present situation in Lebanon clearly reflects and points to a direct confrontation of the regional Soviet alignment with the forces of the State of Israel. Because of the U.S. interest in this kind of confrontation, Israel's possibilities for military action will be greatly increased. At the same time, there are greater dangers of an escalating confrontation with Soviet forces that are liable to appear and go into the arena on the basis of the Soviet-Syrian friendship treaty. The Soviet declaration of a few weeks ago that any strike at the Syrian Army will bring a Soviet reaction distinctly hints at such a possibility.

It may be assumed that after the IDF's intervention in northern Lebanon, the Syrians will make do, for now, with their achievements in this region and will maintain the red line of the Israeli commitment to the Christians. A war of attrition between Syria and Israel in Lebanon, or along the Golan Heights border, is liable to bring about a wider war which is undesirable to both sides. However, a war of attrition is liable to continue to develop between the IDF and Major Haddad's forces on the one side and the terrorist forces on the other. The terrorists would have considerable advantages in such a war. It has recently been noted that the terrorists' firepower has been greatly intensified by their use of an advanced and more effective Katyusha system (in terms of range and in the weight of the rockets). They are also using artillery and other means of combat. Israel cannot allow itself to conduct this kind of war for an extended period. [paragraph continues]

In the past, too, the bombings and the massive shellings were of no avail--besides which they are extremely costly. The Israeli population which is within the terrorists' range of fire is highly sensitive to attacks and to living with bombardments.

Virtually the only operational possibility of wiping out the terrorist forces is in occupying the territory in which they are located. Another "Litani operation" does not seem practical, even if it gets the silent consent of the United States. In the violence-prone region are the UNIFIL contingents, which are indirectly "defending" the territorists' territory. A major Israeli military move is liable not only to bring about an open war against the Soviet alignment in this region--of which the terrorists are a part--but also to lead to a sharp international reaction on the political level.

U.S. OFFER TO STUDY AWACS MAY BE ACCEPTED

TA301602 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Is there a new development regarding the AWACS deal? The U.S. Department of Defense has recently suggested that Israeli experts examine the AWACS to study the capabilities of this surveillance aircraft. Here is a report from Washington by Rafi Mann:

[Begin recording] It transpires from conversations with both U.S. and Israeli elements that the proposal that Israeli experts closely examine the AWACS recently has been unofficially raised by elements in the Department of Defense. The United States claimed that some of the arguments Israel had raised against selling the aircraft to Saudi Arabia are based on lack of familiarity with the AWACS. That is why they proposed that the Israelis closely examine it. It appears that the Pentagon hopes that familiarization with the AWACS features will help the efforts to convince Israel that the threat to its security is not that serious.

It has been learned that among those Israeli elements to whom the proposal has been given some thought it should be rejected because this might be interpreted as a change in the total Israeli objection to the sale of the aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Ultimately, the inclination to accept the offer took the upper hand. Israeli circles in Washington have said that if the proposal is submitted officially, Israel will respond to it. Those same elements said that if it is offered, it is highly conceivable that Israel will send experts to study the aircraft. For the moment, however, it is not yet clear if the U.S. proposal will actually materialize. This is Rafi Mann in Washington. [end recording]

WASHINGTON EMBASSY CHANGES SET FOR SUMMER

[Report from Washington by Dan Raviv]

TA282013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Apr 81

[Excerpt] It is important to note that in the summer months--which will be critical in the AWACS struggle--the Israeli Embassy in Washington will undergo personnel changes. Three of its senior staffers who handled the AWACS problem will be returning to Israel. They are the political counselor, Ben-Tzur, spokesman Pazner and the congressional attache, Li'or. In addition, in the midst of the struggle four of the eight Israeli consuls in the United States will be replaced. Those who are aware of this say there could not have been a worse time to make these changes.

OAU CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

LD301934 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The OAU has said that the oppressed black majority in South Africa will have nothing good to expect from the parlimentary elections in that country. In a press release, the OAU condemned the white South African elections as a mere exercise in futility and an insult to democracy and world conscience. It said that the so-called reforms announced by Pretoria were a deceptive plan designed to protect and to preserve apartheid.

The OAU reiterated its conviction that it is not possible to reform the evil system of apartheid. It must be totally dismantled and destroyed.

TRIPARTITE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE SESSION ENDS

Call for Economic Union

LD301952 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The foreign ministers of Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya yesterday called for an economic union between their three countries at the opening of a 3-day meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian foreign minister, Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, said that cooperation and unity between the three states would lead to peace, development and progress in the Horn of Africa. He criticized Somalia for its policy of territorial expansionism on parts of both Kenya and Ethiopia.

Kenya's foreign minister, Dr Robert Ouka, said the reactivation of a joint economic committee which was created in 1973 would contribute to peace, security and development.

Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, the Sudanese foreign minister, said his country supported peace and economic cooperation in eastern Africa.

Document on Cooperation

LD301954 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 31 EA

[Text] The second session of the tripartite ministerial committee of Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya ended this afternoon after the signing of a document to expand and consolidate the cooperation between the three neighboring countries.

At a colorful ceremony at the Foreign Ministry, Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and member of the Central Committee of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, signed the document on behalf of the government of socialist Ethiopia, while His Excellency Dr Robert Ouka, Kenya's foreign minister, and His Excellency Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, signed on behalf of their respective governments. The ministers of the three neighboring countries exchanged documents in the presence of high-ranking government officials and experts accompanying the countries' delegations.

A joint communique containing the results of the 2-day session of the tripartite ministerial committee will be issued in the three countries on 2 May 1981.

It has been learned that the meeting proposed the convening soon of a summit conference of the heads of state of the three countries.

In a speech after the signing ceremony, Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, who chaired the meeting, said that the tripartite ministerial committee's meeting was successful, and added that it would further consolidate the closeness of the three sisterly countries. He also said the success of the meeting could be attributed to the strengthening of the spirit of friendship, understanding and cooperation between these neighboring countries.

The comrade minister went on to point out that the tripartite ministerial committee made a direct and important contribution toward the development and security of the three countries, adding that the three countries could learn from each other's experiences in order to solve problems impeding their development.

Comrade Dr Feleke said in conclusion that the three countries were expected to accomplish a number of tasks in the future, and added that they had affirmed their preparedness to do everything necessary to accomplish them. [passage indistinct]

His Excellency Robert Quka, on behalf of himself and the Sudanese delegation, expressed gratitude to the people and Government of Ethiopia for the hospitality accorded them.

Djibouti Seeks Admission

LD302058 Addis 'Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia Central Committee member, last night gave a reception at the Hilton Hotel in honor of the participants of the tripartite meeting.

In a related development, the Republic of Djibouti has expressed its desire to be the fourth member of the joint ministerial committee of Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. Reliable sources disclosed that Djibouti had notified the second session of the tripartite ministerial committee today of its intention to seek admission to the joint ministerial committee as a fourth member. The sources also said that in this respect the delegations of the three countries had assured Djibouti that it could become the fourth member of the committee whenever it was ready.

The same sources said that the economic links between [word indistinct] Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya would be a nucleus for greater and wider regional cooperation, and added that other countries in the region which abided by the (?principles of) peace [words indistinct] good-neighbor relations for which the committee stood, could join the joint ministerial committee at any time.

Ministers See Mengistu

LD301956 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, today received and held talks with His Excellency Dr Robert Ouka, foreign minister of Kenya, and His Excellency Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, minister of state for foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, who took part in the second session of the tripartite ministerial committee of Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan.

In a ceremony at the national palace this afternoon, Comrade Chairman Mengistu received a message from His Excellency President Arap Moi, which was delivered to him by his Excellency Dr Robert Ouka. His Excellency Mr Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak also conveyed a verbal message from the leader of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, His Excellency President Numayri, to the comrade chairman.

In speeches after the delivery of the messages to the comrade chairman, the ministers said that the meeting had ended successfully and that the aim of the meeting would be supported by all those who stand for joint peace, development and prosperity, unity and the principles of the OAU. The ministers later explained in detail to Comrade Chairman Mengistu the outcome of and measures taken by the meeting at various levels.

For his part Comrade Chairman Mengistu, after thanking the ministers for their efforts, expressed the hope that the meeting would yield great results since it was exemplary and consolidated the aims of the continent. In addition, the comrade chairman said that the meeting would further strengthen the long-standing friendship and relations between the three sisterly countries.

Present on the occasion were comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member; Comrade Mengistu Gemechu, special assistant to the comrade chairman and COPWE Central Committee member; and the ambassadors of Kenya and the Democratic Repuhlic of Sudan to socialist Ethiopia.

CEAO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ENDS DAKAR MEETING

AB301755 Paris AFP in French 1404 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Dakar, 30 Apr (AFP)--The establishment of a technical committee charged with mapping out, implementing and supervising infrastructural projects of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] will be on the agenda of the next summit meeting of the organization taking place in Dakar next October.

A statement issued at the end of the CEAO Council of Ministers' meeting in Dakar indicates that this question, as well as those related to the acceptance of new products at regional cooperation rates and the study of a timely community solidarity tax, have been discussed and will be put before the heads of state.

According to the council, the ministers of the six member countries (Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal) have asked the CEAO secretary general to go ahead with the study of the project for drug manufacture and distribution at community level, and the decentralization of the Bouake School of Fishery (Ivory Coast). He will also go ahead with the draft proposal for community members to purchase railroad cars at the same price and the establishment of rail links between member countries.

Also, the management council of the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for Community Development has approved 970 million francs CFA as its development budget for 1981.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS WITH YUGOSLAVIA'S MIJATOVIC

LD302016 Tripoli JANA in English 1608 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Belgrade, 30 Apr (JANA)--The first round of the Libyan-Yugoslav talks ended last night and was followed by a private meeting between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great al-Fateh Revolution, and President Cvijetin Mijatovic of the collective Presidency of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia.

Our mission accompanying the Libyan delegation learnt that the talks dealt with the worsening situation in Lebanon as the result of (Israeli) aggression and repeated attempts to liquidate the Palestinians and deal a blow to the Lebanese National Movement. The mission also learnt that contacts are currently being made with Syria and the P.L.O. on measures to be taken to put an end to these barbaric aggressions.

Both sides also reviewed the situation in Western Sahara and the Non-Aligned Movement.

MOROCCO

AL-QADHDHAFI MAGHREB PROPOSALS TERMED 'CHALLENGE'

LD010833 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 22 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Challenge"]

[Excerpts] The warmonger has toured the Arab Maghred area in order to turn it into another Lebanon. This warmonger is Al-Qadhdhafi, who has visited Algeria and Mauritania, expressing his desire to enter into war together with Mauritania against what he termed the conspiracy against Mauritania. When a man like Al-Qadhdhafi makes a tour, he brings with him arms, funds, promises and pledges of readiness to send volunteers and mercenaries; he brings with him everything that is good for war. When he meets with the coupists in Noahchott, who have established their rule by force of arms and who fear being toppled by the force of arms, he cajoles them into undertaking an adventure that would consolidate their foothold in Nouakchott in the present atmosphere of unrest, conspiracies and maneuvers and within the framework of the adventure they embarked upon when they tied their fate as individuals and the destiny of their country to Algeria, Libya and the Polisario.

Such an atmosphere of mobilization for war dictates that Morocco mobilize itself fully in order to defend itself. We as a people feel that defense is no longer the prerogative of the Royal Armed Forces alone but has become the duty of all the people to repel the aggression for which preparations are being made by a man who has ventured in Egypt, Tunisia and Chad and is venturing, together with the foreign states which manipulate him in many parts of Africa. We are called upon to confront this aggression.

The warmonger has now come to our borders to declare his readiness to make war with Morocco. However, we still adhere to our call for peace. His majesty the king has emphasized to the Arab mediator--the Arab League secretary general--our adherence to peace and our desire to live in peace in the area. The response to this peaceful desire has been Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Algiers and Nouakchott, bringing with him the message of war and heightening tension in the area.

Our answer to all this is that our call for peace has not been made from a position of weakness but from an appreciation of responsibility. When the relations among the area's states are governed by a challenge, we shall meet the challenge with a similar one. Morocco will triumph because it knows when and where to achieve victory. However, we still hope that wisdom will prevail, but if it does not we must face the challenge with the only language the challengers understand.

KING HASSAN, COUNCIL EXAMINE 5-YEAR PLAN

LD301108 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Fes, 29 Apr (MAP)--King Hassan II of Morocco presided, here Tuesday, over the opening session of the Supreme Council of National Promotion and Planning (C.S.P.N.P.) which will examine the project of the five year plan 1981-1985. On this occasion, King Hassan II delivered an important speech in which he drew the broad lines of the five year plan of economic and social development.

The sovereign, thus, underlined the necessity of granting priority to three fields: prospection and exploitation of maritime and terrestrial resources, as well as training of skilled labor.

King Hassan II recalled that while giving his high directives to the government, last summer, the sovereign had decided that priority be given to three sectors: fisheries, agriculture and underground resources as well as to the human factor. Afterwards, the sovereign evoked the action of the National Commissions of Agriculture and National Education which endeavour so that the next agricultural campaign and school year take place in the best conditions. King Hassan then announced the decision to create a supreme council in charge of the valorization of underground and surface waters and put stress on the necessity of granting more importance to other fields, mainly oil prospection and exploitation of oil shales as well as natural gas prospection, in order to ensure self-sufficiency in the field of energy.

The sovereign indicated that beginning 1982 Morocco will be able to extract and market huge quantities of uranium from phosphates.

Regarding the industrial sector, King Hassan II said that the state will ensure the achievement of important projects such as the railway Marrakech-Laiovene and the iron and steel plant of Nador, and recalled the role of the private sector in the small and medium enterprises which should profit from foreign investments. In this regard, King Hassan II announced that a new code of investments will be shortly submitted to the House of Representatives.

In the field of labour, the sovereign put emphasis on the training of semi-skilled labour and competent cadres, explaining that the objective of the creation of the national promotion was not solve unemployment but to make all citizens participate in the achievement of different projects, especially so that Morocco disposes [as received] at present of the adequate institutional framework. The concerned ministers and local elects should endeavour for the promotion of this action, said the sovereign.

On the other hand, King Hassan II expressed optimism about the next plan and the climate of consciousness in which the citizens and the officials live, adding that even though the compensation fund weighs on us financially, Morocco remains economically strong and rich and it is with this in mind that the Supreme Council of National Promotion and Planning should endeavour.

The sovereign said that 33 percent of the credits foreseen by the plan are destined to the social sector and drew attention on the consequences that may result from the fact that education is free. This fact, added the sovereign, should be applied in a scientific and equitable manner so that the costs of education do not exceed 20 percent of the national annual financial resources.

The members of the Moroccan Government, headed by the prime minister and minister of justice, Mr. Maati Bouabid, the minister of the royal household, protocol and chancellery, General Moulay Hafid Alaoui, the king's advisers, Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda and Mohamed Aouad, and many other personalities attended the opening ceremony.

Tuesday afternoon, the council met under the chairmanship of the prime minister to set up four work commissions, namely the Commission of Financial and Economic Affairs, the Commission of Social Sectors, the Commission of Productive Sectors and the Commission of Basic Equipments. These commissions will start next Monday in Rabat the discussion of the five year plan project.

The first commission will examine economic and financial questions, commercial exchanges, regional development, establishments and public boards and administrative reform. The second commission will discuss education, staff training culture, youth and sports, public health, justice and waqfs, vocational training and social affairs. The third commission will study questions related to agriculture, dams, tourism, energy and mines, industry, handicraft and fisheries. The fourth commission will examine projects concerning equipment and national promotion, transports, housing, postal services and telecommunications, and mass media.

SUDAN

MEMO TO OAU RESPONDS TO CHAD INTERFERENCE CHARGES

JN301546 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)--The Foreign Ministry has sent a memorandum to the OAU Secretariat replying to the slander and accusations against Sudan by the illegal government in Chad, which claims that Sudan is interfering in the internal affairs of Chad.

The Foreign Ministry explained that the quarter which sent the complaint against Sudan to the OAU does not in any way represent Chad and does not have the right to refer to itself as the government of Chad. Moreover, Goukouni's provisional government lost its legitimacy when it conspired with Libya to control Chad by means of a blatant Libyan military intervention in fraternal Chad.

As regards the documents which Goukouni's government had used to infer the alleged Sudanese interference, the Foreign Ministry explained that Sudan is not responsible for any allegations citing journalistic sources and for statements made by others.

The Foreign Ministry affirmed that Sudan's stand is clear and known to the OAU's Secretariat. Sudan has worked with and within the influence of the OAU and the committees established by it, calling for continuing to work according to the Lagos agreement and the provisions of the Lumi declaration to achieve national unity and spread stability in neighboring fraternal Chad.

The Foreign Ministry renewed Sudan's condemnation of the blatant Libyan aggression and invasion of Chad, and its nonrecognition of the Chadian factions which conspired with Libya in that invasion.

It is worth mentioning that the group ruling Ndjamena sent a memorandum to the OAU Secretariat recently containing falsehoods against the Sudan and its people.

SUNA CITES EYEWITNESSES ON LIBYAN RAIDS IN CHAD

JN291550 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 29 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (SUNA)--Eyewitnesses have stressed that in the last 2 days the Chadian city of Abeche was subjected to the worst destructive operations as a result of continued air raids on the city by Libyan planes. The Libyan planes were reported as attacking the residential quarters and the vital installations in the city, including the water station and the city market.

Eyewitnesses also reported that some 3,000 persons were killed or displaced as a result of these air raids by the Libyan occupation forces. Reports indicate that the Libyans launched these raids in an attempt to stop the sweeping attack which has been launched by the city's inhabitants against the forces of Ahamet Acyl in revenge for the murder of Chadian Mufti Shaykh (Barakah) and in protest against the distribution of the "Green Book" in schools and after prayers.

Other eyewitnesses add that Adre, the biggest Chadian city [as received], is living in a tense atmosphere as the Libyan forces there are reinforcing their positions as a precaution against any possible attacks. Three Libyan military vehicles were reportedly seen to enter the city some 2 days ago.

Observers stress that Goukouni Oueddei's recent visit to Tripoli 2 days ago was for the purpose of discussing the developments in the city of Abeche and to become acquainted with the Libyans' stand on him, particularly in light of the increasing coordination between the Libyan Government and Oueddei's deputy Kamougue.

NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS

JN301809 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Apr (SUNA)--Egyptian new ambassador to Sudan Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif has commended President Ja'far Muhamad Numayri for his efforts to curb Arab rifts and realize Arab consolidation. "Egypt is looking forward to President Numayri's effort to curb Arab rifts and to bring about Arab consolidation and the time now is more suitable than before to achieve these goals" 'Abd al-Latif said.

In an exclusive interview with SUDAN NEWS AGENCY he also praised the decision taken by President Numayri to activate Sudanese Egyptian relations in this stage saying the decision was in conformity with the call for expanding the frame of Arab solidarity. "The name of President Numayri has been associated with Arab consolidation due to his faithful efforts in this regard" he said.

The Egyptian diplomat stressed on the imperativeness of Arab conference as a means for realizing the unquestionable Arab aims and pointed that the Arab nation was in need of Egypt to the same extent of Egypt's need for its "sisterly Arab countries".

"The Arab disputes are attributed to the difference in approach and policies. Not the bases" he said.

He said the proposed joint bank between Egypt and Sudan will boost the integration programmes and called for more freedom to the private sector to operate in the field of joint development plans.

Concerning invitation of President as-Sadat by his Sudanese counterpart President Numayri to visit the Sudan he said As-Sadat was highly impressed in regard of the fatal and eternal relations between Sudan and Egypt. He explained that the forthcoming talks between As-Sadat and Numayri will focus on a package of highly important Arab and African issues along with bilateral relations.

He went on to say that the joint defence treaty stems from the considerations of national security for the two countries respecting that Sudan is the backbone of Egypt. 'Abd al-Latif explained that the Egypto-Sudanese co-ordination is aiming at reassuring the national and regional security and the promotion of development in Africa. He added that this co-ordination became a deterrent factor to foreign intervention in the continent. He cited in this effect the Libyan intervention in Chad which threatens security in both Sudan and Egypt. 'Abd al-Latif confirmed that the Libyan intervention is hindering the achievements of Arab nations in the ground of Afro-Arab co-operation. Mr. 'Abd al-Latif ruled out any possibility of joining foreign military alliances in order to keep the region off the influence of the two supreme powers and avoid the tension in the Mideast and African sensitive regions.

TUNISIA

TRADE UNION FEDERATION HOLDS SPECIAL CONGRESS

NC010840 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Qafsah, Tunisia, 1 May (AFP)--Tunisia's trade union federation ended a special congress in the early hours today after sending an unmistakable message to the authorities that it is once more a force to reckon with, after three years of government control.

The General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), meeting in this southern mining town, elected a new 13-member executive headed by Secretary General Taieb Baccouche. Most of these men were among the federation's leaders before the general strike and riots of January, 1978. The government blamed the UGTT for the violence, jailed many union leaders and imposed its own leadership.

The congress also resolved to call on President Habib Bourguiba to proclaim a "general amnesty" and to release the federation's former secretary general, Habib Achour, from house arrest in Tunis. The only one of the old UGTT officials who has not been amnestied, Mr Achour was nonetheless released from prison 20 months ago.

The federation, at its two-day meeting, also adopted an economic resolution urging government to bring about a "fairer distribution" of the national wealth, through action on wages, prices and taxes: and calling for "limits on the domination of the private sector, particularly the part of this sector linked with foreign capital."

The congress denied the UGTT was at fault in the 1978 riots, saying "responsibility lies with those who wanted to strike a blow at the federation, use it and impose their own tutelage". Mr Achour and his former aides have consistently denied they provoked the violence, in which several dozen people died, and have accused certain officials of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party.

Mr Baccouche, 37, a linguistics professor at the institute of higher education in Tunis, was one of those sentenced to jail after the riots. He has his own base in the Higher Education and Scientific Research Union, which he founded in 1971 and of which he is secretary general.

Other candidates for secretary general of the UGTT--both are members of the new executive--were Houcine Gaddour, leader of the Primary Teachers Union, and Abdelaziz Bouraoui.

Following hard on the heels of the congress, Premier Mohammed Mzali was coming to Qafsah today to preside over May Day celebrations. It is under Mr Mzali, who was named one year ago to replace Hedi Nouira, premier at the time of the riots, that Tunisia has begun to open up its politics. Not only was the union federation allowed to hold its congress, after preparation by a government labor commission, but President Bourguiba said at the recent Destourian Party congress that he had no objection now to other parties' contesting elections and being represented in parliament.

ENGINEERING COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH GDR SIGNED

LD290520 Tunis TAP in English 1409 GMT 27 Apr 81

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, 27 Apr (TAP)--Tunisia and the GDR have signed a bilateral co-operation agreement in the field of engineering on the occasion of the visit that Mr Egon Humpel, East German deputy minister for engineering, has recently paid to Tunis. Under the agreement which will favour the establishment of a large programme of co-operation between the two countries, the GDR is determined to help Tunisia carry out the projects included in the Tunisian plan of national development and relating to engineering.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE EXPLAINS CHANGES TO MILITARY OFFICERS

LD301348 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] and president of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, met officers from different units of the armed forces at the military academy in Mogadishu this morning.

The president of the SDR explained to the officers in detail the recent resolutions announced by the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the SRSP Central Committee and the People's National Assembly on how the council members would henceforth be fully committed to their responsibilities connected with [words indistinct] correcting deviations from the path of the revolution.

Challe Siad stated that these resolutions were adopted in the interest of proper national administration. When such a political decision is taken, it is imperative [words indistinct], to give priority to the people's interest and to pay particular attention to the current situation facing the country as a result of either adverse weather conditions or [word indistinct].

The recall of council officials was necessary in order to check mismanagement, corruption, misappropriation of public funds and other misdeeds damaging the interests of Somali society, Challe Siad said. [passage indistinct] What is needed, he said, is a concerted effort in [word indistinct] and production.

Also present at the ceremony were the first vice president of the SDR, Challe Lt Gen Mohamed Ali Samantar; the third vice president, Challe Brig Gen Ismail Ali Abokor; and officials from the Supreme Revolutionary Council.

SIAD BARRE RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KENYA'S MOI

LD301425 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] Challe Siad, secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, today received a written message from President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya. The message, which concerns strengthening bilateral relations and general world issues, was delivered to the president by the Kenyan ambassador to Somalia, Mr Omar Ahmed Fakih. Challe Siad and the Kenyan ambassador during their discussions raised African Continental issues and bilateral relations. [Words indistinct]

PRESIDENT ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS ON FLOOD RECOVERY

LD302122 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 30 Apr 81 EA

[Text] A circular was issued by Somalia Democratic Republic President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre today on the recent torrential rains in the country during which several rivers burst their banks and caused untold damage to people, property and livestock. The circular states that some residents of the flood-devastated areas are cut off from the rest of the country and from essential commodities such as food, medicines and other essential items.

The president also stated in his circular that in order to save the people and their livestock everyone in the flooded areas is asked not to spare any effort to overcome these natural disasters.

The circular adds that all units of the armed forces stationed in the flooded areas are directed to help the general masses and also to make available all their resources to the regional and district officials in their efforts to help save the lives of people and livestock.

The Ministries of Commerce and Health are also directed to deliver food, medicine and clothing to the people living in the flooded areas. The regional and district officials are directed to be in constant communication and to report on the situation and the extent of flood damage from time to time.

The committee appointed to coordinate flood affairs is as follows:

1. the director general of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, chairman
2. a representative of the Defense Ministry
3. director general of the Ministry of Health
4. director general of the Ministry of Information
5. director general of the Ministry of Commerce
6. a police force representative
7. a national refugee representative.

The circular adds that a team of officials and Supreme Revolutionary Council members will soon make an extensive tour of the flooded areas so as to participate in flood control activities as well as to make on-the-spot decisions and direct the operation.

BRIEFS

UGANDAN DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS--President Obote has appointed new ambassadors to West Germany and Kenya. Mr John Obja Otuwa, a career diplomat, will be Uganda's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to West Germany. Mr Davis Mwaka will be Uganda's high commissioner to Kenya. [Excerpt] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 81 LD/EA]

CHAD

MIG CRASHES IN CAMEROON ON TAKEOFF FROM NDJAMENA

AB010848 Paris AFP in English 0832 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Yaounde, Cameroon, May 1 (AFP)--A MiG jet fighter crashed in northern Cameroon shortly after taking off from Ndjamena, capital of Chad, killing the pilot, Cameroon radio reported today. It was believed the aircraft was Libyan.

The cause of yesterday's crash was not known. The radio said investigators had been sent to the scene, four kms (3 miles) from Kousseri, Cameroon, which is on the opposite bank of the Chari River from Ndjamena.

The radio did not say who the fallen jet belonged to.

However, Libya has been operating MiGs from Ndjamena Airport since Tripoli's armed forces moved into Chad last December to help President Goukouni Oueddei's coalition forces win the civil war.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

OPPONENT SAYS PLOT AIMED AT RETAINING POWER

AB302028 Paris AFP in French 1835 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] Madrid, 30 Apr (AFP)--An Equatorial Guinean businessman, Mr Andres Moise Mba, on Thursday, in the daily paper EL PAIS, accused Lt Col Fructuoso Mba and a group close to President Teodoro Obiang of spearheading an imaginary plot aimed at retaining power which is presently in the hands of the Essangui tribe in the Mongomo District of Equatorial Guinea. Mr Andres Moises Mba, who has been in Madrid since 26 March, denied taking part in a coup attempt recently announced in Malabo. He also indicated that Lt Col Fructuoso Mba, inspector general of the army, was personally heading a group of soldiers in his Rosota farmland, situated 25 km from Malabo, with the aim of seizing all his properties. A few moments later, four employees were arrested and several of them tortured, Mr Andres Moises Mba indicated.

Finally, Mr Andres Moises Mba said that the group of aides that surround President Teodoro Obiang, which is composed of men from the Essangui tribe, have all the power in their hands. These people are connected with the extortions committed under the Francisco Macias Nguema regime, said Mr Andres Moises Mba who competed with the former Dictator Francisco Macias Nguema in the presidential elections in 1969.

SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL PARTY RETAINS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY

LD302230 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Text] The South African National Party government has swept back into power with 131 of the 165 seats in Parliament. The party has ruled the country since 1948. Although it retained a comfortable majority, it lost a large number of votes to parties of both the right and left. Fifty-three percent of the nearly 1.5 million people who voted cast their votes in favor of the National Party and 18 percent voted for the official opposition party, the Progressive Federal Party.

Botha Comment

LD301306 Johannesburg Domestic in English 0500 GMT 30 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says he is convinced that the government has enough public support to continue undaunted with its task. The election results showed that the National Party will be returned to Parliament with a large majority, and on the basis of this, the government's leadership of the country will be strong and sound. Mr Botha said the government would not be diverted from the path it had chosen. Mr Botha said there will be no wavering on his part and with the confidence shown in him he would press on with his work. He told our political correspondent at George that he regarded the outcome of the election as a mandate to give effect to his election manifesto. He would not accept pressure from the outside world and neither would he allow himself to be pushed around inside South Africa. He would continue in his own way and (?at the pace) indicated in his election manifesto.

Asked about the progress of parties both to the right and to the left of the National Party, Mr Botha expressed the view that South Africa should stop the use of such words as right and left.

Johannesburg Commentary

LD301656 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 30 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] South Africa's reputation as Africa's most stable, and one of the world's most stable, countries has again been proved by the outcome of the white general election held on Wednesday. The ruling National Party has emerged from the hustings as powerful as ever. After governing South Africa continuously for the past 33 years the National Party has now proved to the world through the South African electorate that it has moved squarely to the center of the political spectrum. It has shed 10 percent of its support almost equally to both the right and the left, mainly as a result of its reformist policies which have appeared too slow for the two parties on the left and too fast for the two on the right. This indicates that the government is moving at the optimum pace for the South African electorate.

The outcome of the election gives Prime Minister P.W. Botha the mandate he asked for to carry out the sweeping evolutionary reforms he has been planning since becoming prime minister after the last election held 2 years ago. But Prime Minister Botha has warned that he will not be pressurized by the outside world into carrying out his reforms at a faster pace than that indicated by the South African electorate. South Africa can therefore look forward to rapid changes, to the benefit of all its diverse peoples--but at a pace set by them and not by the outside world.